



Wilson County
925 East Baddour Pkwy, Suite 100
Lebanon, TN 37087
Office: 615-444-9584
wilson.tennessee.edu

News and Information from UT-TSU Extension Wilson County

Contact: Ruth Correll, UT Extension-TSU Cooperative Extension Wilson County, 615-444-9584, acorrell@utk.edu

For Release
January 26, 2020

Farm Biosecurity Is Being Proactive

It is wise to do everything possible to protect your livestock investment. The best vaccines and medication can be overcome by poor management every time, so simple down to earth basic biosecurity can be applied to farms without costing a fortune. This will help to prevent the spread of disease farm to farm and within your farm.

Clean Your Boots. Footbaths have their place but for most operations they aren't practical, especially in freezing temperatures or muddy conditions. And dipping boots in them doesn't allow enough contact time to penetrate collected material. The most important thing is removing mud and manure from boots. A good brush, scraper and pail of hot, soapy water can be very effective. Once cleaned, use a spray bottle to thoroughly apply a solution of household bleach as a last step.

Simple Disinfectant Use. There are many good disinfectants but the best option is one that is readily available and will be used. The more expensive the product, the more the tendency to skimp. Everyone has household bleach and should not be afraid to use it.

Biosecurity For Guests. Have extra boots and coveralls for visitors. This can be as simple as disposable plastic boot covers and single use coveralls, so no need to manage footbaths and wash-up protocols or tell people they need to clean up. These can be removed and disposed of in a designated area while on the farm. Disposable gloves provide protection against disease spread and even some zoonotic diseases, but if gloves are not available, wash hands as soon as possible and use alcohol based hand cleaners.

Have dedicated equipment. There are two biosecurity goals in calving season. Don't introduce anything new, so avoid buying little calves from the auction and know where your colostrum is coming from. Manage what's on your farm. Calves are often a source of illness, so avoid using equipment between calves that has not been thoroughly cleaned.

Healthy Animals First. Tend to healthy animals first, then treating the sick maximizes the time between when you are last in contact with those animals. Avoid returning to the healthy animals after being exposed to the sick animals unless you have properly disinfected boots, coveralls and washed hands or changed gloves.

Disinfect Equipment Between Animals. Any instrument that can share blood/bodily fluids between animals has the potential for spreading disease. Even small amounts of blood on tagging, tattooing, calving equipment, and dehorning tools can transfer disease such as bovine leucosis and anaplasmosis. Dipping equipment into a solution of bleach and water for approximately one minute between animals will help to reduce the spread of disease. Fresh needles make sense. Use detachable needles and change to a fresh one for every animal. Changing needles takes just a few moments, and good needles cost only a few cents compared to the cost of lost production or even the loss of an animal due to disease.

Manage New Addition Entry. The best advice is to buy livestock with known health records and screen for disease upon entry. Keep them separate from the herd until test results are back, then vaccinate and deworm based on the health protocols determined by your herd veterinarian. A typical quarantine period would be approximately one month.

As has been said many times, “a stitch in time saves nine”, says it's better to spend a little time and effort to get ahead of a problem before that problem becomes a reality and can be much more costly to the producer.

For more information on Extension programs, contact the UT-TSU Extension Office in Wilson County at 615-444-9584. You can also find us on Facebook or visit our website: extension.tennessee.edu/wilson

The University of Tennessee Extension offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability and is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Through its mission of research, teaching and extension, the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture touches lives and provides Real. Life. Solutions. ag.tennessee.edu

###

Contact:

Ruth Correll, UT Extension-TSU Cooperative Extension Wilson County, 615-444-9584, acorrell@utk.edu

