

Biosecurity for Dairies the Pork Way

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Pork producers have been concerned about biosecurity for a long time. They have worked out effective and doable ways to insure the safety of their pigs from outside diseases. Dairy producers can benefit from looking at what the pork producers are doing on many of their facilities. This article is adapted from one of their publications, “Biosecurity – Guide for Pork Producers” published by the National Pork Board in 2002. They suggest two main interests – isolation facilities and prevention of indirect entrance.

Isolation Facilities:

Do you have an isolation facility?

Yes.....Good
No.....Unacceptable

Is the isolation facility located...

100 yards from other cattle.....Questionable
Greater than 100 yards from other cattle.....Adequate
More than a half mile from other cattle.....Excellent

Is animal flow through the isolation facility.....

Continuous flow through facility.....Unacceptable
All-in/all-out with cleaning between groups.....Questionable
All-in/all-out with cleaning between groups.....Excellent

Is the duration of stay in isolation.....

Less than 14 days.....Unacceptable
15-30 days.....Adequate
Greater than 31 days.....Excellent

Do people working in isolation.....

Go back and forth to non-isolation areas.....Unacceptable
Change clothes and boots before working with other animals....Questionable
Work with other animals after an overnight without contact.....Adequate
Work only in isolation areas with no other animal contact.....Excellent

Source herd of replacements

No communication with source herd.....Unacceptable
Pre-shipment communication with source herd.....Adequate
Written source herd health information.....Excellent

Monitoring in isolation

Blood testing for diseases only.....	Questionable
Monitored daily for clinical signs of disease only.....	Questionable
Cultured for infectious diseases only.....	Questionable
Blood tested, monitor and cultured.....	Excellent
Sick or dying animals receive no diagnostic workup...	Questionable

Monitoring for specific diseases

Only clinical cases.....	Questionable
Few animals in each group.....	Questionable
A statistically valid samples.....	Adequate
All animals.....	Excellent

Monitoring schedule

Only upon arrival.....	Questionable
Once about 14 days after arrival.....	Questionable
Once prior at 30 days prior to leaving.....	Adequate
Twice before leaving.....	Excellent

Test result and interpretation

Results confirmed by phone.....	Questionable
Result confirmed by paper or electronic means.....	Excellent
Replacements moved before results reported.....	Unacceptable
Replacements not moved before results confirmed by vet....	Excellent

Prevention of Indirect Entrance:

Distance from public road

Less than 200 yards.....	Questionable
200 – 500 yards.....	Adequate
Greater than 500 yards.....	Excellent

Deterrents to entrance

Biosecurity signs at entrance.....	Questionable
No perimeter fence or gated driveways.....	Questionable
No perimeter fence; driveways gated, not locked.....	Questionable
No perimeter fence; driveways gated and locked.....	Adequate
Buildings are secured with locks.....	Adequate
An occupied house exists on site.....	Excellent
Perimeter fence with driveways gated and locked.....	Excellent

Pest / Wildlife control programs

No pest control program.....	Questionable
Pest control done by producers.....	Adequate
Pest control done by professionals.....	Excellent
Dogs, cats and wildlife have access to feeds.....	Unacceptable
Nesting and roosting sites minimized.....	Adequate
Feed spills cleaned up daily.....	Adequate

Feed and feed delivery

Feed truck dirty upon arrival (inside cab, outside).....	Questionable
Driver wear clean coveralls and boots.....	Adequate
Drive enters animal housing areas.....	Unacceptable
Feed truck and driver remain outside dairy perimeter...	Excellent
Feed mixed on dairy and deliver in dedicated trucks....	Excellent
Front-end loaders used only for feed mixing.....	Excellent
Producer familiar with feed mill biosecurity plan.....	Excellent
Feed delivery trucks crossing animal walkways.....	Unacceptable

Animal haulers

Trucks/trailers not washed and disinfected after each load.....	Unacceptable
Trucks/trailer not inspected by dairyman before loading.....	Unacceptable
Trucks/trailer inspected prior to entry on dairy*.....	Excellent
Drivers wear dirty coveralls or boots.....	Unacceptable
Drivers wear clean coveralls and boots.....	Adequate
Drivers enter cattle housing areas.....	Unacceptable
Dairy has a perimeter transfer station.....	Excellent

*Dirty trucks should be rejected.

Employees

Workers have routine contact with other cattle.....	Unacceptable
Workers bring “international” food on dairy.....	Unacceptable
Workers are trained about risks of contact and foods.....	Excellent
Provided protective clothing and boots.....	Excellent
Workers in “high risk areas”.....	
Restricted to activities within high risk areas.....	Excellent
Change clothes and boots before leaving areas.....	Adequate
Only wash boots before leaving areas.....	Unacceptable
Move freely about the dairy.....	Unacceptable
Receive training in biosecurity.....	Excellent
Alert supervisor when unknown people seen on dairy.....	Excellent

Visitors

Visitors must sign-in upon arrival.....	Excellent
Visitors wear their own clothing.....	Unacceptable
Visitors wear protective clothing provided by dairy.....	Excellent
Visitors permitted to drive within dairy.....	Unacceptable
Visitors park in designated areas on dairy.....	Adequate
Visitors park outside perimeter of dairy.....	Excellent
International visitors been in US for at least 5 days.....	Adequate

Carcass removal

Carcasses removed daily.....	Excellent
Carcasses protected from access by dogs or wildlife.....	Adequate
Renderers pick up carcasses at perimeter transfer point....	Excellent
Renderers drive onto dairy.....	Unacceptable
Designated equipment used to handle dead animals.....	Excellent
Equipment cleaned and disinfected routinely.....	Adequate

The Guide for Pork Producers reminds us that the entire biosecurity program is only as good as the weakest point. Therefore based on our current knowledge, a response that is “Unacceptable” indicates a high risk of introduction of new pathogens even though other responses in a particular area are all “Excellent”. “Questionable” responses also indicate an area of increased risk and the dairymen should be aware of these risks and where possible promote a more cautious behavior to prevent pathogen entrance to the dairy. All “Questionable” responses should be discussed with herd veterinarian for safeguard strategies that might be applicable.

The pork industry has set high standards for themselves. Applying these standards will surely raise the bar for the dairy industry. However, by adopting these biosecurity standards a dairyman can greatly reduce the risk of introducing a new pathogen to the animals currently on the dairy. To view the entire pork biosecurity guidelines visit www.biosecuritycenter.org or www.porkboard.org.