- Disinfection and washing facilities.
- Roads and tracks should be used by all visitors to prevent cross-contamination.
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), such as boots and overalls, should be worn and changed when moving between barns, always working from clean to dirty areas.
- Storage areas should be kept clean and disinfected regularly.
- Waste disposal facilities/areas should be provided.
-






Some of the biosecurity measures to protect farms

Remember: Implementing farm biosecurity measures doesn't have to be expensive. Small-scale farms can cut costs by utilizing affordable and locally available materials.

FARM BIOSECURITY

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What is Farm biosecurity?

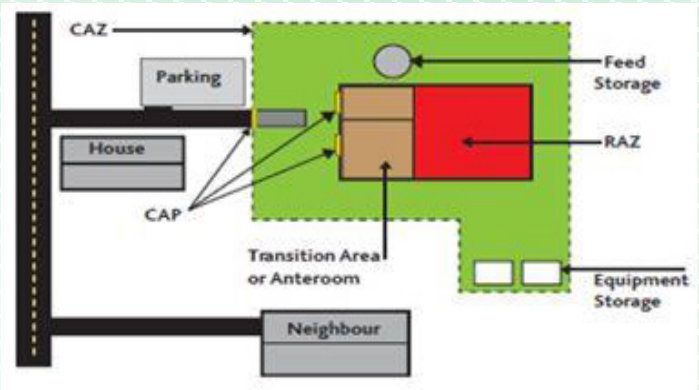
Farm biosecurity involves implementing measures to minimize the risk of introducing and spreading harmful organisms on farms. This includes containment measures to prevent the introduction and spread of viruses, bacteria, fungi, parasites, weeds, and other harmful agents both within and beyond the farm boundaries. Effective farm biosecurity enhances overall profitability by boosting the productivity of livestock, crops, and pasture. This is achieved by minimizing losses caused by weed, pest and disease outbreaks.

Farm Biosecurity Principles

Three key biosecurity principles play a crucial role in safeguarding farms:

1. Isolation
2. Sanitation
3. Movement Control

Different farms adopt tailored measures aligned with these principles to control the entry and exit of harmful agents.



Farm layout incorporating biosecurity zones (CAZ = Controlled Access Zone; CAP = Controlled Access Point; RAZ =Restricted Access Zone) (Source: National Farm-Level Biosecurity Planning Guide Proactive Management of Animal Resources, Government of Canada, 2013).

How do Pests and Disease Enter Farms?

Pests and disease-causing pathogens can enter or spread around your farm through various means:

- Farm inputs/outputs, such as plants, livestock, animal feed, and water, among others.
- Interaction of wild animals with domestic animals.
- Poor farm practices, including poorly maintained equipment and storage areas, improper disposal of carcasses, and inadequate management of farm waste.
- People, including farm personnel and visitors.
- Vehicles and equipment, such as cars, trucks, tractors, weighing scales and husbandry equipment (dips, vaccination equipment, etc.).
- Air, through transmission as an aerosol or dust.

Implementation of Farm Biosecurity

Generally, measures to be taken include:

- Livestock isolation/quarantine and control of animal movements.
- Hygiene maintenance on the farm (for people, equipment, and vehicles) to minimize the potential for farm contamination.
- Ensuring feed and water safety.
- Implementing animal health management practices such as vaccination programs, regular monitoring for pests and diseases, and immediate reporting and control of outbreaks.
- Increasing public awareness among farm workers.

Essential Farm Biosecurity Measures

Some of the essential farm biosecurity measures that should be in place include:

- Fencing, gates, and building doors that are well-maintained. Double boundary fences prevent neighbor animals from direct nose-to-nose contact.
- Farm signage to direct visitors accordingly.
- Designated parking areas for staff and visitors, located a minimum of 15 feet from the barn.
- Visitor register to record dates, names, and contact information.