Biosecurity Basics

Biosecurity is vital to ensuring our flocks and herds are kept as safe as possible. By implementing biosecurity standards on farms and at fairs, we can reduce the risk of disease transmission.

Basic biosecurity guidelines include the following:

**Minimum PPE:**

* Site-specific or disposable footwear
* Gloves or hand sanitizer

**Maximum PPE (*Minimal PPE plus*):**

* Tyvek coveralls or site-dedicated change of clothing
* Facemask or respirator
* Head covering
* Safety glasses

Important biosecurity terms for going to a farm or fair:

* Perimeter Buffer Area (PBA): The line around an entire premises that can either be invisible or a fence line. This area should include all areas and building related to livestock or poultry production. The PBA should be separate from other operations which are unrelated to the daily care of the animals. Structures like the barns, feed bins, shower facilities, and storage can all be inside the Perimeter Buffer Area. The PBA should be clearly marked with signs.
  + Think of a perimeter buffer area like a moat around a castle where you need to go over the drawbridge to gain access. Each entrance has a set of requirements which must be met before entering.
  + If a premises has multiple species on site, use extra precautions when moving between species, especially poultry and dairy cattle. On farms, areas with multiple species should be treated as separate properties.
* Line of Separation (LOS): A physical barrier of a building where livestock and/or poultry are kept, including barriers at entry points like doorways. Outdoor livestock and poultry should also have an LOS where workers use barriers such as fences or pens. The LOS should be specific for each barn or pen and should be clearly marked.
  + Think of the line of separation as the walls of the castle and you have to go through doors to gain access. Each entrance has a set of requirements which must be met before entering.

We know the importance of PPE, but how do we know **what** PPE to use, **when** to use it, and **how** to use it?

\*\*Call ahead and speak to the person responsible for the premises and the animals. Make sure you have permission to enter the premises. Ask about requirements for down time if you have visited another livestock or poultry premises.

Before arriving at a premises, ask yourself a few questions:

1. Am I going to be crossing the PBA?
2. Am I going to be crossing the LOS?
3. Am I going to be interacting with animals?

Depending on your answer to those questions, the amount of PPE may differ.

1. Am I going to be crossing the PBA?

**NO**: Contact the premises owner to see where you should park in order to prevent crossing the PBA.

**YES**:

* Arrive with a clean vehicle (outside AND inside)
* Keep vehicle windows closed
* Stop at the cleaning and disinfection station (if applicable) and spray tires
* Park in the designated parking area and place site-dedicated or disposable booties on as you exit the vehicle—street shoes should not make contact with the ground

1. Am I going to be crossing the LOS?

**NO**: You may not need any additional PPE; check with the biosecurity manager

**YES**:

* Put on a clean or disposable head cover
* Put on clean or disposable coveralls
* Bring a second pair of disposable boots or boots which have been cleaned and disinfected to put on over first pair, when crossing the LOS

1. Am I going to be interacting with any animals?

**NO**: You may not need any additional PPE; check with the biosecurity manager

**YES**:

* Put on disposable gloves or use hand sanitizer before interacting with animals
* Put on a properly fitted facemask or respirator (optional)
* Use eye protection (optional)

After the visit is finished, all PPE should be carefully removed as you cross the LOS and/or PBA.

When removing gloves:

* Avoid touching the outside surface of dirty gloves with your bare hands
* Dispose of the gloves in a trash bag—NEVER REUSE DISPOSABLE GLOVES
* Wash or sanitize hands immediately after removing gloves

When removing coveralls:

* Remove coveralls inside-out and do not touch the outside surface of the coveralls with your bare hands
* Place in a trash bag and leave on the premises, if you have permission- if not, seal the trash bag and dispose of the bag properly after you leave

Keep a pair of disposable boots on your feet until you return to your vehicle. When you return to your vehicle:

* Sit on the seat while keeping your feet outside of the vehicle
* Remove the disposable booties and put them in a trash bag and leave on premises, if you have permission- if not, seal the trash bag and dispose of the bag properly after you leave
* Spray your shoes with disinfectant before placing them back in the vehicle—paying special attention to the soles
* Spray the running board of vehicle, if applicable
* Use hand sanitizer before touching the inside of the vehicle

If possible, it is highly recommended to go through a car wash after leaving a premises, and especially before visiting another premises.