



# BIOSECURITY ON MY FARM

## Learning objectives

- realize that biosecurity measures are already in place on most farms
- understand that all farms do some things well and need to improve on others
- recognize good biosecurity practices
- develop a sense of pride and ownership over farm biosecurity

## Materials

- imagination! (and any materials as determined by the participants)

## Directions

- 1 Have participants pick one thing that contributes to their farm's biosecurity (e.g., having a set of clothes and boots that stays in the barn; wearing disposable gloves; signage showing access restrictions; isolating new animals; washing hands often).
- 2 Have participants prepare some information about this practice to share with the rest of the group (e.g., why it is done, how it is enforced, what it helps to prevent)
- 3 Encourage participants to be creative in how they present this material (e.g., through a skit, artwork, game, photography, music, having the other participants perform a task).

## ! Did you notice that...

- biosecurity can be seen as a gradient — a farm can be more biosecure, or less biosecure, rather than simply biosecure or *not* biosecure
- simple measures (washing boots or putting on boot covers) can go a long way towards improving a farm's biosecurity.
- clear signage is an important part of biosecurity, to indicate what or who is or is not permitted in certain areas
- many biosecurity practices are common sense and are already in place on many farms
- all farms do some things well and need to do other things better



## CONCLUSION



### Background Information

**bio** life or relating to living things

**security** protection or precautions to guard against harm or attack

Biosecurity is an immensely broad topic, defined by the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) as "a strategic and integrated approach that encompasses the policy and regulatory frameworks that analyze and manage risks in the sectors of food safety, animal life and health, and plant life and health, including associated environmental risk".

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency outlines the "Basic Principles of Biosecurity" as follows:

#### ACCESS MANAGEMENT

- designate distinct zones
- control movements between these zones

#### ANIMAL HEALTH MANAGEMENT

- manage animal movement
- observe animals for signs of disease
- establish a response plan for potential disease situations

#### OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT

- properly dispose of dead animals
- manage manure according to regulations
- keep premises, buildings, equipment and vehicles clean
- maintain facilities in good repair
- obtain production inputs from a reliable source
- control pests
- plan and train staff on biosecurity protocols

([www.inspection.gc.ca/biosecurity](http://www.inspection.gc.ca/biosecurity))

Biosecurity is an important aspect of farming. Simple measures employed regularly can go a long way towards preventing future problems — and can be the key to keeping herds, flocks, and crops healthy.

# BIOSECURITY



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