



State of Wisconsin
Jim Doyle, Governor

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
Rod Nilsestuen, Secretary

DATE: 3/20/03
TO: WISCONSIN'S LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY
FROM: DR. ROBERT EHLENFELDT, ACTING STATE VETERINARIAN
RE: BIOSECURITY

There was a lot of talk, and action, about biosecurity two years ago during the foot-and-mouth disease outbreak in the United Kingdom and again in the days following Sept. 11. Now that the war in Iraq has started, and the federal government has declared an "orange alert," I want to remind the livestock industry that, if you've lowered your guard since those days, it's a good time to get strict again.

Producers and agribusinesses need to control access to property, facilities and animals. Be aware of who is on your property and why. If you have any reason to suspect something out of place that suggests any sort of tampering, call your local law enforcement and Wisconsin Emergency Management at 1-800-943-0003.

A quick review of basic biosecurity measures:

- Keep disinfectant readily available at entry points to the farms, and to barns and sheds that house animals.
- Post – and heed – warning signs asking visitors to stay out of buildings where animals are housed. Meet visitors away from production areas. Lock barn or shed doors.
- Require that visitors leave all food in their vehicles, remove manure and soil from their shoes or boots and disinfect them or put on disposable boots, and put on clean protective clothing.
- Keep a record of visitors.
- Have haulers pick up sale animals or dead animals away from barns or sheds housing animals.

And a reminder that producers who notice symptoms like these need to call their veterinarian, DATCP (608-224-4872) or USDA (608-270-4000) immediately:

- Sudden unexplained death loss in a herd or flock
- Severe illness affecting a high percentage of animals
- Blistering around an animal's mouth, nose, teats or hooves
- Unusual ticks or maggots
- Staggering or falling

If you need help with biosecurity issues, call the Division of Animal Health (608-224-4872) or Division of Food Safety (608-224-4700) in the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection.

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