

# Manitowoc County Biosecurity Advisory Committee Offers Recommendations to Prevent Disease Spread<sup>1</sup>

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The recent outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) in Europe has been a “wakeup call” for animal agriculture in the United States. Recently, a group of Manitowoc County concerned dairy professionals, convened to develop a list of biosecurity protocols. The group also ranked dairy service providers into “high” and “medium” risk categories based on their contact with animals and equipment used by animals.

What follows is a summary of the Manitowoc County Biosecurity Advisory Committees recommendations:

*“High” risk service providers include:*

Hoof Trimmers	Dead Stock Removal Personnel
Veterinarians	Visitors – Other Livestock Farmers
AI Techs	Visitors – Foreign Visitors or Overseas Travelers
DHIA Techs	Service People with access to cattle or equipment used by cattle
Milk Inspectors	Consultants with access to cattle or equipment used by cattle
Cattle Haulers	

*“Medium” risk service providers include:*

Feed Consultants (without access to cattle)  
Service People (without access to cattle)  
Milk Haulers (without access to cattle)  
Feed Delivery Personnel (without access to cattle)  
Extension Agents/ Vocational Personnel (without access to cattle)  
Sales Reps (without access to cattle)  
Manure Haulers (without access to cattle)  
Visitors from U.S. that are non-farm people

*The committee agreed that if a “medium” risk service provider comes in contact with animals, their classification changes from “medium” to “high” risk.*

**“High”** risk personnel should use the following protocols to ensure proper biosecurity:

1. Wash/disinfect boots before entering the facility and immediately after the visit
2. Park vehicles away from the facility whenever possible
3. Use clean or disposable coveralls
4. Wash and disinfect **all** equipment e.g. hoof trimming chutes, tools, etc.\*\*
5. Pick up dead livestock from a designated area away from the livestock buildings
6. Pick up and deliver livestock in clean trailers/trucks
7. Consult with farm owner regarding cattle loading and unloading standard operation procedures.

\*Farmers should provide service personnel with water to wash equipment.

\*Farmers should remove cattle from areas where service people are working whenever possible.

Service providers classified as “**medium**” risk should also follow #'s 1 and 2 above.

*No residents of countries known to have FMD and no visitors to those countries should be allowed on the farm for at least fourteen (14) days after returning to the United States.*

Other comments made by the Manitowoc County Biosecurity Advisory Committee include::

- ◆ Encouraging farmers to have signage which indicates “Biosecure Area – Do Not Enter Without Permission”. Signage at the end of the driveway could read “No Visitors, Sales, or Service People allowed without an appointment”. A contact person and telephone number could be listed. Signage at the main entrances to the facility should be in both English and Spanish.
- ◆ Feed delivery personnel that deliver bulk feed to bins should wear plastic boots.
- ◆ Feed delivery personnel delivering bagged feed into a dairy or livestock facility should wash and disinfect their boots before entering the facility and at the conclusion of the delivery.
- ◆ Feed suppliers are encouraged to use non-returnable bags.
- ◆ Farmers are encouraged to position bulk feed bins away from the cow yard where cattle and manure may come in contact with the delivery trucks and feed delivery personnel.
- ◆ Feed bags delivered to the farm should be placed in an area away from the dairy/livestock facility and animals if at all possible (a machine shed is preferable).

The Manitowoc County Biosecurity Committee also discussed the following points:

- ◆ Manure stored in a storage facility is a minor concern with regard to the spread of most diseases.
- ◆ Fresh manure is a major concern, e.g. Salmonella and Johnes disease.
- ◆ Animal to animal contact is the main avenue for disease spread.
- ◆ Body secretions, including mucous and saliva, are very infective if this material comes in contact with other animals.
- ◆ Service trucks and personnel are a major concern if they enter dairy and livestock areas for service and/or repairs.

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