



CANADIAN
MEAT GOAT
Association

CANADIENNE
de la CHEVRE
de BOUCHERIE

**Take
common
sense
precautions
to prevent
disease
from
coming
onto your
farm.**

Why is biosecurity important?

Biosecurity means doing everything possible to protect the health of livestock by preventing the transmission of disease. An outbreak of animal disease could not only harm your poultry or livestock, it could affect other nearby animals and quickly spread through your area. The economic consequences of a disease outbreak could be devastating. Taking common sense precautions to prevent disease from coming onto your farm is the best investment you can make.

Give Germs the Boot

You wouldn't think of tracking dirt and disease into your house where it could infect your family. Don't do it to your livestock or poultry either! Germs can be picked up on hands, shoes and clothing and moved from one area to another. Keep a pair of shoes or boots to wear only around your animals.

Clean and disinfect your shoes. Mix three parts bleach to two parts water in a small, flat tub to kill germs. Use a long handled scrub brush to remove mud, droppings and debris before applying disinfectants. Consult your veterinarian for further details. Ask visitors and employees to clean their boots and shoes too. Always wash your hands before and after coming in contact with animals. Launder your clothes in a washing machine with laundry detergent before you come in contact with your animals. Maintain programs to control birds, and rodents, which can carry and spread diseases. Eliminate parasites.

Don't Haul Home Disease

Car, truck or trailer tires can harbor germs too. Taking a few minutes to spray disinfectant over your tires can kill germs you've picked up in parking lots, on dirt roads or in a friend's pasture. If you've hauled livestock or poultry in your trailer, a quick trip through the car wash is advisable before returning home. Always clean and disinfect vehicles used for moving animals. Limit traffic of incoming people, products and vehicles that could bring in a disease. Clean and disinfect all equipment that comes in contact with your animals.

Keep Your Farm Secure

With the increased threat of agricultural terrorism, security is extremely important. Be aware of who is on your property and where they have been. Keep feed and veterinary supplies in a secure location. Prevent people from tampering with feed, supplements or medicines. Restrict access to your property and animals. Do not allow people who own other animals to come in contact with your animals. Require proper identification. Keep doors and gates locked. Have tracking records on animals.

Give Germs Space

Newly acquired animals should be isolated for at least two weeks to ensure you don't introduce disease to your main herd or flock. As an added precaution, isolate and quarantine new animals for 30 days before putting them with your other

animals. Observe them closely and regularly during that time. Keep show animals segregated for at least two weeks after they've been to a fair or exhibit. Do not mix animal species.

Look for Signs

- Unusual animal health symptoms or behaviour, sudden, unexplained death loss in the herd or flock
- Severe illness affecting a high percentage of animals Unusual ticks or maggots
- Blisters around an animal's mouth, nose, teats or hooves
- Staggering, falling or central nervous system disorders that prevent animals from rising or walking normally
- Swelling of the tissues around the eyes and in the neck of poultry
- Partial to complete drop in egg and milk production
- Production of thin-shelled eggs
- Large number of dead insects, rodents or wildlife

Don't Wait – Call in Signs of Disease Immediately

Do not self-diagnose: seek veterinary services as early detection is your best protection. If you have animals with signs of suspect disease, call your local veterinarian, extension agent, or the provincial or federal veterinarian. Rapid response and investigation are the only ways to control and eliminate disease and stop large numbers of animal illness or death and resulting damage to our economic system.

You are the Best Protection for Your Livestock and Poultry

Make these simple steps part of your daily routine to decrease the risk of your poultry and livestock getting sick:

- LOOK for signs. Watch for signs of disease or unexpected deaths among the herd or flock.
- CALL-in signs of disease. Don't wait – call in signs of disease immediately. If your poultry or livestock animals are sick or dying, call a veterinarian or your local extension agent to find out why.
- PRACTICE biosecurity. Keep your livestock and poultry free from disease. Restrict traffic on your property and disinfect shoes, clothes, and hands to prevent the spread of disease.

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Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) is pleased to participate in the production of this publication. AAFC is committed to working with our industry partners to increase public awareness of the importance of the agriculture and agri-food industry to Canada. Opinions expressed in this document are those of the Canadian Meat Goat Association and not necessarily AAFC's. / C'est avec plaisir qu'Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada (AAC) participe à la production de cette publication. Avec nos partenaires du secteur nous nous engageons à sensibiliser davantage les Canadiens et Canadiennes à l'importance de l'agriculture et l'industrie agroalimentaire au pays. Les opinions exprimées dans cette publication sont celles de l'association canadienne de la chèvre de boucherie et non pas nécessairement celles d'AAC.