



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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Biosecurity

Protecting your animals...
protecting your business



Biosecurity is about being aware of how you can contain or prevent the spread of infectious diseases. Your actions can also reduce the risk of a disease outbreak on your farm.

Benefits of good biosecurity on your farm

- Helps keep your animals healthy, protects against disease and the associated financial impact.
- Many infectious diseases can be avoided.
- The spread of diseases that affect humans can be reduced.
- Control and eradication of diseases is made easier.
- You can reduce the amount of medicines you use to prevent and treat disease.
- You can improve your farm's efficiency whilst helping to protect neighbouring farms and the countryside.

What can cause diseases?

- Introducing an infected animal to a susceptible group e.g. an animal purchased or one that has returned to the farm.
- Vermin, wildlife and birds can contaminate feed, water troughs and feed stores.
- Movement of people, farm equipment, vehicles and machinery between and within farms can spread disease.
- Rivers and streams can be affected by stock defecating or urinating in water whilst drinking. Also slurry/waste water run-off contamination.
- Animals stressed from malnutrition, poor housing and adverse conditions are more likely to catch disease. Dormant disease may also flare up.



- Moving animals between farms and within farms. For example, mixing groups of calves at weaning.

Key things to remember

- Try to use a closed herd/flock policy. If you have to obtain replacement stock, check out their health status first before moving the animals and quarantine them when they arrive on your farm.
- Review and check your herd/flock health status regularly, develop effective animal health planning with your vet.
- Don't risk bringing infection onto your farm, or spreading it around your farm on your clothes, footwear or hands. Only use protective clothing and footwear that can be cleansed and disinfected.
- Have controlled access to your farm and direct visitors to specific safe areas.
- Have pressure washers, brushes, hoses, water and disinfectant available for use. Ensure that everyone and everything arrives clean and also leaves clean.
- Control vermin on your farm.
- Provide clean feed and water which is not accessible to vermin and wildlife.
- Make sure you know the health status of new and returning stock and isolate them from other animals.
- Identify the areas of high risk on your farm and address these first. For example keep livestock away from freshly spread slurry and dispose of bedding so that livestock cannot gain access to it.
- Keep winter housing well ventilated and dry.
- Keep up-to-date with licence conditions for the movement of livestock.
- Respect the biosecurity needs of other farms.



Simple rules to follow when isolating your animals

- Place incoming animals in quarantine for some 2 to 4 weeks. Ask your vet about the exact length of time necessary and any tests or treatments needed.
- If you use a building to isolate animals make sure it is separated from any other buildings housing livestock. They need to be at least 3 metres apart.
- If you use a paddock/field make sure that no contact can be made with neighbouring livestock and ensure the provision of clean water supplies. Consider the use of double fencing.
- Make sure animals do not have nose to nose contact with other animals, particularly at gateways.

The protection of Welsh livestock depends on effective biosecurity so please play your part.

For more information

Visit: www.wales.gov.uk/environmentandcountryside

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