

# Farm Biosecurity Risk Assessment Tool



ONTARIO VETERINARY  
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

## Biosecurity Risk Assessment Tool

This is a general risk assessment tool that will be useful for all farmed species. It is comprehensive enough to cover all the key risk factors but also quick and easy to use on the farm.

Using the tool:

The Veterinary Biosecurity Assessment Tool is designed for use by general veterinary practitioners. The questions posed in this document pertain to general biosecurity for all types of livestock operations, and are intended to be used in developing an assessment of a farm's biosecurity. There may be additional risk factors that are important for the individual species, and more comprehensive documents for each species will be available in the near future.

The tool is designed to promote discussion on risk practices on the farm, thereby providing an opportunity for the veterinarian to be involved in implementing biosecurity solutions appropriate to the farm. There may be risks that the producer chooses to accept and those that can be mitigated by changing practices on the farm.

### Glossary:

Closed	Does not purchase replacement animals of any age; all replacement have been bred and raised on-farm for at least a year or more if dealing with Johne's disease. If animals are taken to a show and returned, the herd cannot be considered closed.
Isolated	Physically separate such that replacement or clinically ill animals, as well as their excretions and secretions, cannot contact resident animals.
Equipment	Any implement coming into contact with manure or animals, could be a shovel or a tractor, or hoof trimmers or rectal sleeve.
Control Zone in a Foreign Animal Disease situation	The CFIA control zone is usually quite large and could include much of a province. Within this zone there is a 3 km infected zone around the index farm, a ten km zone around the farm called the restricted zone and the rest of the Control Zone which is called a surveillance zone. Permits from the CFIA would be necessary for vehicles to travel into the infected zone.
Site and Zones on a farm	A farm. If part of a multi-site facility, the individual site should be assessed independently. The overall multi-site system can also be assessed using the tool. The Restricted Access Zone (RAZ) on a farm is the area where the animals or birds are kept. There should be a biosecurity break between this area and the area outside of this which is called the Controlled Access Zone (CAZ). Only essential staff and visitors should enter the RAZ. There should also be controls on who enters the CAZ.

## Biosecurity Assessment

To complete this assessment, check the appropriate boxes in relation to this livestock operation. If a question does not apply to the subject farm, please tick "Not Applicable" and continue with the assessment. At the completion of the exercise, review the areas that require remedial action and record some key recommendations for the producer to consider on the last page. This form is designed as a general risk assessment tool rather than a species-specific one. Not all questions are applicable to all livestock production units. Such questions should be marked as "Not Applicable".

<b>Operation Details</b>	
Name of Farm:	Client number:
Owner:	
Address:	
Livestock Type and Numbers:	

<b>Section A: Animal Risk Factors</b>		Always	Sometimes	Never	Not Applicable
Does this livestock operation...					
A1	Operate a closed* herd/flock? If no, do they... I. Isolate replacement animals for 3 weeks or more? II. Purchase replacement animals from herd/flock with known health status? III. Test replacement animals for specific diseases of concern? Diseases of concern: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A2	Does the producer use bulls, rams, etc for breeding?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A3	Practice All-in / All-out management practices (in appropriate industries) with cleaning and disinfection of the units between subsequent herds/flocks if appropriate to the operation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A4	Isolate* clinically sick animals?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A5	Use separate pens for birthing and sick animals?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A6	Have and follow a veterinarian-approved vaccination program against specific diseases of concern?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>		NO <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A7	Prevent wildlife (except birds) from contacting the stock?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A8	Have a livestock disposal protocol which: • Ensure dead stock is removed from animal housing quickly so that no other livestock have contact with the carcass? • Defines the pickup protocol for deadstock services?	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
A9	Perform routine (at least yearly) testing or monitoring for specific diseases				

	of concern? Diseases: (i.e. Johne's, Salmonella, PRRS, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A10	Perform post-mortems for unexplained deaths to monitor disease?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A11	Perform appropriate routine (at least yearly) parasite control? I. Young Animals II. Mature Animals	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

	<b>Section B: Feed &amp; Water Risk Factors</b>				
	Does this livestock operation...	Always	Sometimes	Never	Not Applicable
B1	Take measures to ensure that feed or water supply cannot be contaminated by manure exposed to rodents, pets or wildlife, if possible?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B2	Test drinking water for bacterial contamination?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B3	Practice sanitation to minimize contamination of livestock waterers by manure and urine?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>		NO <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B4	Is the source of livestock drinking water:  I. Untreated surface water, or II. Groundwater, or III. Treated surface water, or IV. Municipal water? V. Snow?	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Section C: Owner, Family and Employee Risk Factors</b>					
Do owners, family and employees on this livestock operation.....		Always	Sometimes	Never	Not Applicable
C1	Work with animals from youngest to oldest, if practical? If not, are precautions taken?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C2	Disinfect equipment* (livestock related) between uses?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C3	Use equipment* for a single purpose only (i.e. do not scrape manure and feed with the same shovel)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C4	Wear coveralls and boots provided for use in the animal holding facilities only?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C5	Change coveralls before working with different animal groups, including isolation areas?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C6	Disinfect or change boots before working with different animal groups?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C7	Work on subject farm only?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C8	Have a written copy of the farm's biosecurity protocol(s)?	yes <input type="checkbox"/>		No <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C9	Understand and comply with the biosecurity protocol(s)?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>		NO <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Section D: Visitor Risk Factors</b>		Always		Never	Not Applicable
Does this livestock operation.....		YES		NO	
D1	Have a visitor log to record all people who enter the farm?	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D2	Post biosecurity signage?	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D3	Prohibit visitors from entering the farm buildings without permission?	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D4	Ensure visitors do not enter the animal housing area unless necessary?	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D5	Provide visitors and farm service workers with coveralls and boots or plastic booties?	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D6	Allow international visitors to visit livestock within 48 hours of arrival?	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D7	Enquire into recent animal contact by visitors?	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D8	Are truck Drivers encouraged to stay in their cab while loading or unloading	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
D9	Clean equipment before taking it into the barn	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
D10	Have a designated, signed parking area for visitors and farm service workers?	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D11	Is commonly used equipment left on facility (i.e. calf pullers, chains etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	

<b>Section E: Site Risk Factors</b>		Always	Sometimes	Never	Not Applicable
Does this livestock operation.....					
E1	Keep animals from different sites* separate until their health status is known?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>		NO <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
E2	Have only one livestock species on each site, including pet and hobby animals or birds*?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>		NO <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
E3	Prevent dogs and cats from accessing barns and livestock? This may not be possible in some premises as the cats are used for rodent control.	YES <input type="checkbox"/>		NO <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
E4	Take livestock off the farm? And if the animals are to return does the farm...  I. Isolate those animals upon return to the farm? II. Use a cleaned truck and trailer? III. Use own truck and trailer?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>  ALWAYS <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	  SOMETIMES <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>  NEVER <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
E5	Exist as the only farm with the same species within the control zone* (3km)? *The control zone would be the area that CFIA would designate as such around an index farm if a major foreign animal disease occurs.	YES <input type="checkbox"/>		NO <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
E6	Prevent animals from having fence-line contact with livestock from other farms (i.e. provide a buffer zone that allows for a space)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
E7	Avoid using equipment* that is used on other farms (borrowing, lending, custom operators)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
E8	Is the farm contained on one site rather than multiple sites?  If no, do they and their employees: I. Work on only one site? II. Change boots, coveralls and wash hands before and after visiting each site?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>  ALWAYS <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	  SOMETIMES <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>  NEVER <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
E9	Use a commercial trucking organization to take animals to market or sales?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>		NO <input type="checkbox"/>	

E10	Use an offsite feed supplier?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>		NO <input type="checkbox"/>	
E11	Dispose of manure on the farm?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>		NO <input type="checkbox"/>	
E12	Use custom operators for cleaning barns or spreading manure?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>		NO <input type="checkbox"/>	
E13	Ensure equipment or vehicles from other sites are clean on arrival?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>		NO <input type="checkbox"/>	
E14	Use deadstock collection service for dead animals?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>		NO <input type="checkbox"/>	
E15	Compost deadstock?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>		NO <input type="checkbox"/>	
E16	Have tours, open houses, or participate in 4H or other shows?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>		NO <input type="checkbox"/>	

**Veterinarian Comments and Recommendations:**

Things that are done well :


Opportunities for improvement:
