
Animal Science

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Safety and Security for the Beef Operation

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Safety and security on the farm should be a concern for beef producers. The outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and the potential spread of anthrax to the United States makes animal care a very important issue. Producers should not panic. By following good management practices, a producer can insure the safety and security of his/her animals and reduce the possibility of spreading diseases.

Below are a list of practices that producers should be following to create a more secure environment for their operations.

- ★ Keep property “posted” and keep gates locked to your property. This can reduce the possibility of theft and reduce unauthorized entry to the premises.
- ★ Check the identity of all people entering your property. Verify their reason for being on your property. People entering your premises should be wearing clean clothes without any manure on them.
- ★ Keep pets (yours and your neighbors’) from roaming freely on your farm to prevent the spread of disease.
- ★ Report suspicious activities to the proper authorities.
- ★ Disinfect all equipment that has been used on another farm before using on your farm.
- ★ Disinfect shoes and wash clothing after visiting another farm. This is extremely important if you have traveled out of the United States.

- ★ Keep equipment and farm premises as clean and sanitary as possible.
- ★ Never use manure-handling equipment for any other purpose unless it is thoroughly cleaned. This is especially important if this equipment originates from another farm.
- ★ All vehicles should be clean when entering and leaving the premises. This would include feed trucks, fertilizer trucks, veterinarian's truck, livestock trucks and all visitors' vehicles.
- ★ Keep all fences in good repair so animals remain where they were placed.
- ★ Purchase all supplies, feeds, medicines and other inputs from known sources.
- ★ Lock all buildings that contain chemicals, fertilizers, animal health products, etc. If possible, use buildings located away from livestock to store fertilizer, chemicals, etc.. Do not store these products adjacent to animal feeds.
- ★ Purchase animals from a known supplier of livestock. Quarantine animals after arrival on the farm. Maintain quarantine areas downslope and not adjacent to other animal areas.
- ★ Treat animals that have been taken off the farm (such as to a fair) as new arrivals when returning to the farm. Isolate the animals for at least 14 days.
- ★ Develop and follow a recommended health and management program.
- ★ Observe animals for any signs of disease or abnormal behavior and report potential problems to your local veterinarian.

Beef producers must remain aware of the activities that are taking place on their farms. Although terrorist activities have heightened awareness, producers do not need to do anything that they shouldn't have been already doing. Good management makes the beef operation profitable and it also insures that animals are kept safe and secure.