

# BIOSECURITY GUIDE: KEEPING YOUR CATTLE HEALTHY

No matter your daily operations, a good biosecurity plan is crucial to protecting the health and marketability of your cattle. Diseases can be introduced to your cattle through infected animals or livestock, insects, and the farm environment. By adding these practices to your herd management routine, you can mitigate the risk of diseases like trichomoniasis, vesicular stomatitis virus, bovine viral diarrhea, and other common viral or bacterial diseases that could negatively affect your herd.

## Keep It Organized

- Work with your veterinarian to develop a clear vaccine, testing, and treatment program for your herd.
- Apply official identification tags to cattle for quick and efficient record keeping.
- Maintain disease status and other records for breeding stock.

## Keep It Secure

- Maintain good barriers and fences between cattle groups and prevent surrounding wildlife.
- Restrict nose-to-nose contact between livestock from other premises.
- If possible, limit your cattle's contact with people from other premises.
- Secure all foot traffic by requiring the use of protective measures such as boot covers or foot baths on your premises.
- When moving cattle around the farm, move from most to least susceptible or from young to old and healthy to sick cattle.
- When introducing cattle into the herd, isolate new cattle for 30 days to ensure they don't spread disease or pests.
- When purchasing cattle, ask for the breeding, calving, vaccination, and treatment history.
- Test all breeding bulls for trichomoniasis.

## Keep It Clean

- Empty and clean shared feed and water sources weekly, and more often if dirty.
- Keep feed and manure handling equipment separate.
- Continuously change needles when administering vaccinations to prevent contamination amongst the herd.
- Disinfect equipment, feed buckets, trucks, trailers, and shoes regularly with bleach, chlorhexidine, or other disinfectants to prevent bacteria or virus spread.
- Control biting flies using fly spray, fly traps, maintaining clean pens, etc.

*These biosecurity recommendations are for general disease prevention. For specific cattle disease prevention practices, please contact your private veterinarian and refer to TAHC disease factsheets.*

