ANIMAL MOVEMENTS
BIOSECURITY TIP SHEET

Animals moving on and off your operation can spread disease. Biosecurity steps can help stop disease spread. Animal movement includes new animals. It also includes animals returning to your farm/ranch after shows, breeding, grazing off-farm, or medical care.

ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION (ID) AND RECORD KEEPING

Animal ID helps keep good records on status, health and movements. Follow state and federal ID requirements when moving animals. Some livestock need individual ID and others can be identified as a group or lot.

- ID options include ear tags (plastic, metal, radiofrequency), tattoos, brands, or leg bands.
- Records should include animal origin, age, treatments, vaccines, current location, and movement history.

A plastic ear tag is one way to identify cattle.
Source: ISU Extension and Outreach

Colored leg bands can be used to identify groups of poultry.
Source: Danelle Bickett-Weddle, Iowa State University

Sheep with two different plastic identification tags
Source: Danelle Bickett-Weddle, Iowa State University

INCOMING ANIMALS

Animals brought in from outside sources are a greater risk to your herd than those born and raised on your farm. Incoming animals may not look sick but may be carrying disease. To protect your herd or flock:

- Purchase animals only from disease-free sources. New animals should come from sources whose biosecurity practices are similar to, or better than, your own.
- Animals from out of state may need to be tested for diseases. Follow all state and federal testing rules.
- Vaccinate new animals before allowing them to enter your herd or flock.
- Test and/or treat new animals for parasites.
- Transport livestock in cleaned and disinfected trailers or crates.
- All incoming animals should be in quarantine for a period of time, usually 21-30 days. Work with your veterinarian to set animal quarantine periods.
- Train animal caretakers on how to recognize sick animals.

Truck with a trailer and yellow crates used to transport birds.
Source: Lindsay Harlow, Pennsylvania State University.

BREEDING ANIMALS

- Examine and test breeding animals based on guidance from your veterinarian.
- Animals brought in for breeding should also be quarantined for a period of time.
- Semen or embryos should be from disease-free sources.
- Breeding equipment shared with other farms should be cleaned and disinfected before use.
- Prevent unplanned mating with animals from other herds or flocks.

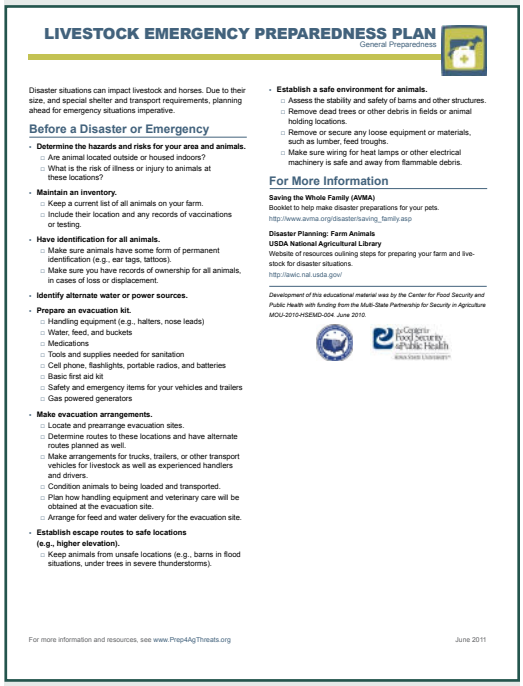
SHOW ANIMALS

- Livestock that have left your operation and returned should be quarantined for a period of time, usually 21-30 days.
- Limit, as much as possible, interactions between animals at shows.
- Avoid sharing equipment with animals from other operations. Equipment such as feed or water containers, grooming equipment, leads, and halters can easily spread germs.
- Make sure that animal housing areas at shows have been cleaned and disinfected before allowing your animals to enter.

EMERGENCY PLAN

Plan ahead. Disasters may require evacuation. They might also prevent the movement of animals or feed. A written emergency plan can help decrease the impact and speed recovery.

- Include how you will care for animals, move feed, personnel, and other needed items.



LIVESTOCK EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PLAN
General Preparedness

Disaster situations can impact livestock and horses. Due to their size, and special shelter and transport requirements, planning ahead for emergency situations imperative.

Before a Disaster or Emergency

- **Determine the hazards and risks for your area and animals.**
  - Are animal located outside or housed indoors?
  - What is the risk of illness or injury to animals at these locations?
- **Maintain an inventory.**
  - Keep a current list of all animals on your farm.
  - Include their location and any records of vaccinations or testing.
- **Have identification for all animals.**
  - Make sure animals have some form of permanent identification (e.g., ear tags, tattoos).
  - Make sure you have records of ownership for all animals, in cases of loss or displacement.
- **Identify alternate water or power sources.**
- **Prepare an evacuation kit.**
  - Handling equipment (e.g., halters, nose leads)
  - Water, feed, and buckets
  - Medications
  - Tools and supplies needed for sanitation
  - Cell phone, flashlights, portable radios, and batteries
  - Basic first aid kit
  - Safety and emergency items for your vehicles and trailers
  - Gas powered generators
- **Make evacuation arrangements.**
  - Locate and prearrange evacuation sites.
  - Determine routes to these locations and have alternate routes planned as well.
  - Make arrangements for trucks, trailers, or other transport vehicles for livestock as well as experienced handlers and drivers.
  - Condition animals to being loaded and transported.
  - Plan how handling equipment and veterinary care will be obtained at the evacuation site.
  - Arrange for feed and water delivery for the evacuation site.
- **Establish escape routes to safe locations (e.g., higher elevation).**
  - Keep animals from unsafe locations (e.g., barns in flood situations, under trees in severe thunderstorms).
- **Establish a safe environment for animals.**
  - Assess the stability and safety of barns and other structures.
  - Remove dead trees or other debris in fields or animal holding locations.
  - Remove or secure any loose equipment or materials, such as lumber, feed troughs.
  - Make sure wiring for heat lamps or other electrical machinery is safe and away from flammable debris.

For More Information

Saving the Whole Family (AVMA)
Booklet to help make disaster preparations for your pets.
http://www.avma.org/disaster/saving_family.asp

Disaster Planning: Farm Animals
USDA National Agricultural Library
Website of resources outlining steps for preparing your farm and livestock for disaster situations.
http://awic.nal.usda.gov/

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For more information and resources, see www.Prep4AgThreats.org

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Emergency preparedness plan checklist for livestock.
Source: CFSPH, Iowa State University

ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

Use the following checklist to determine areas where you are doing well and others that need to improve.

YES	NO	After answering, pick one or two "No" answers and make an improvement plan with the resources below.
☐	☐	Do you buy animals only from places with strict biosecurity programs?
☐	☐	Are new or returning animals separated from all other animals for a period of time before mixing them with your herd/flock?
☐	☐	Is separate feeding and watering equipment used for new or returning animals?
☐	☐	Do you have an emergency plan to care for your animals in the event of a natural disaster or other event that could stop animal and supply movement?

MORE RESOURCES:

Biosecurity at Pig Shows: Safety Tips for Before, During and After the Show. Pork Checkoff.

Farm Emergency Preparedness Planning. Center for Food Security and Public Health.

Interstate Regulations for Animal Movement. USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

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