

TECHNICAL NOTES

US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Environment 13

Albuquerque, NM
July 2013

The Basics of Biosecurity for On – Farm Visits

NRCS staffs collect data during farm visits for inventory and evaluation in the planning process, developing a CNMP, collecting topographic survey data, completing a site assessment for a waste storage facility, and other purposes. During these activities, NRCS employees can have a high likelihood of coming into contact with animal manure. Animal manure is a common medium of transmission for many harmful disease agents. NRCS staff may also inadvertently transport plant pathogens and invasive pests between field sites during a farm visit

Each employee who conducts business with or visits a livestock operation is responsible for taking biosecurity actions.

APCU

- ARRIVE Clean Keep contact surfaces, (Shoes and hands) clean, Don't bring a disease to customers operations
- PREVENT vehicle Transport of disease-keep vehicles at a distance. Respect or assume access restrictions as vehicles are difficult to disinfect
- CLEAN-UP after visit - Clean and disinfect or remove manure contaminated surfaces
- USE proper hygiene Methods

Be prepared for farm visits.

1. Become familiar with the diseases most likely to be encountered in your area.
2. Find out the best disinfectant to clean the surfaces to be treated.
<http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/Disinfection/>
3. Order supplies and equipment for staff and vehicles used for field visits.
4. Follow-up with staff to ensure they understand the proper procedures for field visit hygiene.
5. Plan visits by contacting the farm ahead.
6. Make each visit count by taking all the supplies needed to collect data and information.
7. Clean up properly after the visit to prevent bringing any diseases back with you.

Biosecurity is important to prevent disease transmission. A few examples:

Name	Disease	Transmission
Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)	Virus	Ingestion Aerosols
African Swine Fever (AFS)	Virus	Ingestion Contact
Johne's disease (mycobacterium paratuberculosis)	Bacterial Spores	Ingestion
Escherichia coli (E. coli) 0157	Bacterium	Ingestion
Bovine Viral Diarrhea (BVD)	Virus	Ingestion Contact
Salmonella	Bacteria	Ingestion

Resources for most the up-to-date information on diseases in New Mexico:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/index.shtml

<http://aces.nmsu.edu/ces/nmhs/animal.html>

<http://newmexicolivestockboard.com/>

<http://www.epa.gov/agriculture/tbis.html>

NRCS Biosecurity Policy. <http://directives.sc.egov.usda.gov/default.aspx>

Especially note conditions for levels 1, 2 and 3. Most of the work NRCS does can be covered under Levels 1 and 2.

403.84 Policy

(a) During periods of outbreak of infectious animal diseases, NRCS employees shall not enter affected areas for normal planning and implementation purposes. Entry to those areas shall only be made in response to a request from the State Veterinarian or other responsible official in order to provide guidance and assistance for mortality disposal. In those situations, biosecurity measures as directed by the responsible official shall be followed.

(b) NRCS employees will adhere to Level 1 biosecurity measures at all times or more stringent measures that farmers/ranchers or owners/producers may have in place. During periods of heightened concern for infectious animal disease, additional procedures outlined in Levels 2 and 3 below may be implemented as recommended by APHIS and the State Veterinarian

(1) Level 1

Visits to farms/ranches that entail office or home visits only:

- ✓ Avoid livestock area, pens, barns, etc., unless it is necessary to complete the goal of a visit.
- ✓ Park vehicles on paved or concrete areas, away from production sites on farms, to avoid contact with dirt, mud or manure.

- ✓ Wash hands with soap and water or an antibacterial gel before entering and after leaving the premises to avoid transmitting disease agents from person to person.

(2) Level 2

Visits to farms/ranches where minimal contact with livestock/poultry or their housing (barns, pens, hutches, etc) is unavoidable to attain the goal of the visit:



- ✓ Park vehicles on paved or concrete areas, away from production sites on farms, to avoid contact with dirt, mud or manure.
- ✓ Put on clean rubber or new plastic boots upon exiting the vehicle.
- ✓ Wash hands with soap and water or an antibacterial gel before entering and after leaving the premises to avoid transmitting disease agents from person to person.
- ✓ After returning to vehicle, clean and disinfect any equipment used with a brush and approved EPA disinfectant solution (Virkon-S Oxonia Active/Oxycept 333).
- ✓ Clean rubber boots with an approved EPA disinfectant diluted with water. Scrub the bottom of the boot with a brush to remove all dirt or debris. Dispose of disinfectant solution according to the label. Do not discard unused disinfectant on the ground.
- ✓ If wearing plastic boots, place them in a plastic bag and leave it on the premises for the owner/producer to dispose of them or place them in a designated “dirty” area of your vehicle.

(3) Level 3

Visits to farms/ranches where there will be close contact with livestock/poultry (walking through narrowly confined pens/lots where animals are within reach or actually handling/inspecting the animals):

- Pre-plan the needed supplies and clothing for daily visits including, but not limited to, coveralls (cloth or Tyvex); boots (rubber or disposable plastic); latex exam; large water container; EPA approved disinfectant – Virkon-S Oxonia Active/Oxycept 333; long-handled brush; trash bags; paper towels; spray bottle w/water; liquid and/or gel antibacterial soap; and bucket/pail.
- Park vehicles on paved or concrete areas, away from production sites on farms, to avoid contact with dirt, mud or manure.
 - ✓ Put on a pair of clean coveralls for each visit.
 - ✓ Put on clean rubber or new plastic boots upon exiting the vehicle.
 - ✓ Designate a “clean” area in your vehicle to place clean equipment and boots.
 - ✓ Designate a “dirty” area in your vehicle for clothing and equipment that has been used on the farm.
 - ✓ Wash hands with soap and water or an antibacterial gel before entering and after leaving the premises to avoid transmitting disease agents from person to person.

- ✓ After returning to vehicle, clean and disinfect any equipment used with a brush and approved EPA disinfectant solution (Virkon-S Oxonia Active/Oxycept 333).
- ✓ Clean rubber boots with an approved EPA disinfectant diluted with water. Scrub the bottom of the boot with a brush to remove all dirt or debris. Dispose of disinfectant solution according to the label. Do not discard unused disinfectant on the ground.
- ✓ If wearing plastic boots, place them in a plastic bag and leave it on the premises for the owner/producer to dispose of them or place them in a designated “dirty” area of your vehicle.
- ✓ Remove coveralls so that they are inside out and place them in a garbage bag.
- ✓ Place the clean equipment and boots in the designated “clean” area of the vehicle.
- ✓ If the vehicle was not parked on a paved surface, wash vehicle tires and wheel wells to remove dirt and debris at a nearby pressure car wash.
- ✓ At the end of the day, dispose of all plastic bags that contain dirty supplies in a manner that prevents exposure to other livestock.
- ✓ Launder all coveralls.
- ✓ Personal hygiene should include shampooing hair and cleaning under fingernails.





Tips to prevent inadvertently transporting plant pathogens and invasive pests between field sites during a farm visit

- Be able to identify weeds
- Know what plant diseases are in your area
- Park away from infested sites
- Avoid walking in infested sites
- Clean all equipment used in the field in the same field. This includes shovels, probes, etc.
- Know if there are any recently quarantined areas. Avoid those areas
- avoid weed infested areas, seeds on clothes, etc. vehicles
- Clean vehicles coming out of fields. Especially pay attention to undercarriage. If no carwash is available clean undercarriage in an area where weed seeds won't run off such as a vegetated area.