

WHY IS BIOSECURITY IMPORTANT?

A few simple measures can reduce the risk of you spreading diseases among farms or regions in the countries you visit.

These same measures can reduce the risk of bringing a foreign animal disease (FAD) back to Canada when you return. Several FADs, such as Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and Avian Influenza (AI) occur in other countries and can have severe consequences if brought into Canada.

Also, certain animal diseases can affect humans. A few basic precautions while around livestock can reduce your risk of getting sick or passing infections to others.

COMING HOME...

Follow the Canadian Food Inspection Agency recommendations when returning to Canada. If you visited an agri-food establishment outside Canada, you must:

- Ensure all footwear, clothing, equipment and personal effects are thoroughly cleaned and disinfected before returning to Canada
- Declare to customs upon arrival all plant and animal products (meat, dairy, eggs, etc.) Do not bring these products to a farm or anywhere that livestock could contact them

It is recommended that you not visit farms in Canada for 14 days after arrival.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

To find out more, visit the Chief Provincial Veterinarian web pages at:
<http://www.agric.gov.ab.ca/chiefvet>

For current animal disease situations visit the World Organization for Animal Health at:
<http://www.oie.int>

Contact

Office of the Chief Provincial Veterinarian
Food Safety Division
Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Services
9th Floor, O.S. Longman Building
6909 116 Street
Edmonton, AB T6H 4P2

T. 780.427.3448

F. 780.415.0810



BIOSECURITY FOR OVERSEAS TRAVELERS

Alberta

PROTECT THE AGRI-FOOD INDUSTRY HERE AND ABROAD

ASK FIRST

- Ask for permission to visit
- Comply with local biosecurity measures
- Ask what diseases are present
- Inform the host of other establishments you have recently visited

AVOID UNNECESSARY CONTACT

- Handle animals (live or carcasses) only if necessary
- Avoid contact with manure
- Be aware of biohazards in open markets

Be aware of the animal diseases in the country you are visiting

WEAR CLEAN CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR

- Take extra clothing to change into between visits
- Thoroughly clean and disinfect footwear between each facility visit
- Disposable coveralls and boot covers are effective for short, minimal-contact situations only

KEEP YOUR HANDS CLEAN

- Wash hands and fingernails thoroughly (with soap and water for 20 seconds) after each farm visit
- Wear disposable gloves for handling manure or animals, particularly sick animals
- If soap and water are not available, clean hands with detergent-containing towelette to remove visible soil then use antiseptic hand rinse/gel



USE CLEAN GEAR

- Use disposable supplies wherever possible
- Equipment should be thoroughly washed, dried and disinfected before it is taken to another facility
- Articles that cannot be cleaned easily should be left behind or protected in plastic bags

CLEAN VEHICLES

- Ensure car is clean, inside and out, prior to visit
- Where practical, use the farm vehicle, not yours, to inspect pens, fields or pasture
- Remove soiled clothing and boots and store in plastic bags prior to entering vehicle

PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY

- Seek health protection advice from a travel health clinic before you go
- Wash your hands thoroughly and often
- Avoid unnecessary contact with animals and animal feces
- Ensure food is cooked thoroughly or wash and peel raw food yourself
- Practice proper hygiene including hand washing, showering, and laundering clothes
- Do not smoke, eat or put anything in your mouth when working in environments where animals live
- Avoid touching your face, particularly your eyes and nose
- Do not allow children, elderly or other vulnerable people to handle your soiled farm clothing or equipment, particularly after you have worked with sick animals
- Contact your doctor promptly if you are bitten or if you or household members become ill following your contact with livestock or poultry

Be courteous and culturally sensitive: explain the reasons for using your biosecurity measures without insulting theirs