

## Bio-Security in the Beef Herd

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Bio-Security is an important of the beef operation. Animals need to be protected fro diseases that might be introduced into the herd.


When Bio-Security is mentioned, the first thing that producers think about is a terrorist attack. The chances of a terrorist attack on an individual farm is quite slim, however, there is a good possibility that a disease of some type may gain access to the farm through regular production activities.

Many diseases gain entrance to a farm from new animals introduced on the farm, equipment that is brought on the farm, neighbors walking across the farm or from wild animals that may have contaminated feeds.

New animals brought on the farm, particularly those from livestock markets have a good chance of bringing in a disease that is not currently on the far. These animals should receive the same vaccination program that other animals on the farm receive. Animals being brought on the farm should be isolated from the other animals for three to four weeks. This allows them to exhibit any symptoms of disease and then get over the disease before exposure to animals already on the farm.

Most producers do not realize the potential of carrying disease into a farm with equipment. Stock trailers, feed trucks, fertilizer buggies and even the neighbors truck can move a disease from one field to another. Don't drive your truck through your neighbors field because you could spread diseases from your farm or pick up disease and bring back to your farm.

Animals from a neighboring farm can also spread disease to your farm. It is essential that good fences be maintained. The old saying "Good fences make good neighbors" is still valid when it comes to protecting the herd from disease.



Another opportunity to protect animals from disease is to keep gates locked. Keeping strangers out protects animals from disease plus reduces the risk of theft.

Remember, bio-security is critical on every farm. Utilize those practices that protect your animals from disease.