

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service
210 Walnut Street, Room 693
Des Moines, IA 50309-2180

August 25, 2006

GENERAL MANUAL (GM)
130 - AGN
AMENDMENT IA4 (Part 403)

SUBJECT: AGN – BIOSECURITY MEASURES

Purpose. To revise the Iowa biosecurity measures.

Effective Date. Upon receipt.

Explanation of changes. This guidance has been developed to assist field staff in implementing this policy while providing technical assistance to livestock producers. It was developed in cooperation with the veterinarian at the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship that specializes in Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and USDA-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). This biosecurity broadens the original policy issued in May 2002 which focused on Foot and Mouth Disease. The broader issue of providing technical assistance to livestock producers appropriately is critical to carrying out our mission.

The General Manual policy also addressed the requirement for biosecurity supplies in each office and field vehicle. The list of supplies and suppliers is also attached.

Some employees have livestock operations. These employees are encouraged to consider having "work only" and "home only" boots and outer clothing to lessen the chance of cross contamination.

→ Bottom line with this issue is that NRCS and partner employees have a responsibility to ensure that technical assistance is provided in a manner that does not provide a means for diseases to be transmitted from farm to farm. When making appointments with livestock producers, you should ask if the producer has a biosecurity plan; if cattle have been recently in the work area; if manure has been spread in the work area; and any other things that you need to be aware of regarding biosecurity. All of these items should be noted on the IACPA15, Conservation Assistance Notes.

Filing instructions. Remove pages IA403-9(1) through 9(3). Insert pages IA403-C-1 through C-3, dated August 2006.

\s\ Richard Van Klaveren
State Conservationist

Attachment

GM

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PART 403 – Crisis Responsibilities

Subpart C – NRCS Operations in a National Emergency

IA403.27(b) Field Staff Responsibilities

→ The transmission of diseases between farming operations is a serious issue. NRCS and partner employees are to follow the protocol below to limit disease transfer between operations while conducting conservation activity. These sanitation guidelines are to be understood and followed by all employees.

The State Resource Conservationist has the lead for biosecurity issues in Iowa.

→ When setting appointments with livestock producers, employees should ask if the producer has a biosecurity plan. When the producer has a biosecurity plan that meets or exceeds NRCS protocol, follow that protocol. Follow the NRCS protocol when the producer does not have a biosecurity plan, or it is less than NRCS protocol.

**Routine Biosecurity Measures for On-site Farm Visits
Or Other Livestock Concentration Points**

Biological security measures are becoming standard in many agricultural sectors. These controls, meant to minimize the risk of disease introduction and spread, can vary greatly according to operation and type of site visit. To address concerns from farm owners/producers, USDA personnel must take steps to ensure a reasonable level of biosecurity protection.

Minimum Biosecurity Measures

- * *Avoid livestock areas, pens, barns, etc., unless it is necessary to complete the goal of the visit.*
- * *When possible, park your vehicle on paved or concrete areas, away from production sites on the farm, to avoid contact with dirt, mud, or manure. If paved or concrete areas are not available, be certain that tires are free of dirt and debris by hosing the tires and wheel wells before leaving the premises. Take the vehicle to the nearest pressure car wash if this does not clean the tires adequately.*
- * *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.*

Biosecurity Levels

Routine levels of biosecurity measures are described below. When in doubt as to which level of biosecurity is needed, choose the higher level. These steps should be repeated for each premise that is visited.

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Level 1 -- Visits to farms or ranches that entail office or home visits only. No contact with livestock or their housing (including pet horse or work dog).

- * *Use the minimum biosecurity measures already discussed.*

Level 2 -- Visits to farms or ranches where minimal contact with livestock or their housing (barns, pens, hutches, etc.) is unavoidable to attain the goal of the visit, i.e. property appraisals, tour of production facilities. Contact constitutes walking through animal housing, lots, or pastures where the animals are not within reach.

- * *Follow Level 1 measures **plus***
- * *Put on clean rubber or new plastic boots upon exiting the vehicle.*
- * *After returning to your vehicle, clean and disinfect any equipment used with a brush and approved EPA disinfectant solution (see listed supplies).*
- * *If using rubber boots, clean with an approved EPA disinfectant diluted with water. Scrub the bottoms of the boots with a brush to remove all dirt or debris. Dispose of disinfectant solution according to the label. Unused disinfectant solution should not be discarded on the ground.*
- * *If wearing plastic boots, place them in a plastic bag that should be left on the premises for the owner/producer for disposal or place in a designated "dirty" area of your vehicle.*
- * *Dispose of disinfectant solution according to the label. Unused disinfectant solution should not be discarded on the ground.*

Level 3 -- Visits to farms/ranches where there will be close contact with livestock. This includes contact such as walking through narrowly confined pens/lots where animals are within reach or actually handling/inspecting the animals.

- * *Follow Levels 1 and 2 measures **plus***
- * *Pre-plan the needed supplies and clothing for daily visits. Use a pair of clean coveralls for each premises.*
- * *Designate a "dirty" area in your vehicle for clothing and equipment that has been used on the farm.*
- * *Park your vehicle on paved or concrete surfaces away from production facilities, when possible.*
- * *Put on clean coveralls and rubber boots immediately upon exiting the vehicle.*
- * *After returning to your vehicle, clean and disinfect all equipment used (including eyewear) and place all disposable supplies in a plastic bag to leave with the owner/producer for disposal. If not possible, place plastic bag in the "dirty" area of the vehicle and dispose of in a manner that prevents exposure to other livestock.*
- * *Clean rubber boots with an approved EPA disinfectant diluted with water. Scrub the bottoms of the boots with a brush to remove all dirt or debris. Dispose of disinfectant solution according to the label. Unused disinfectant solution should not be discarded on the ground.*

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- * *Remove coveralls so that they are inside out and place 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 the nearest 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.*

Supplies

The supplies for proper biosecurity include the items listed below. Commercial product names are for clarification only since other companies may have equal quality products that could be purchased. Assistant State Conservationists-Field Operations will coordinate the purchase of these items.

- * Coveralls – Cloth or Tyvex
- * Boots – Rubber or disposable plastic boots
- * Latex exam gloves
- * Large water container
- * EPA approved disinfectant
 - ~ Virkon-S
 - ~ Oxonia Active/Oxycept 333
- * Long handled brush
- * Trash bags
- * Paper towels
- * Spray bottle with water
- * Liquid and/or gel antibacterial soap
- * Bucket/pail