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WASHINGTON BULLETIN WA130-7-1

SUBJECT: AGN -Homeland Security/Crisis Responsibilities
Biosecurity Preparedness and Response
Using Biosecurity Measures on Livestock and Poultry Operations

Purpose. Provide guidance on procedures for using biosecurity kits

Expiration Date. September 30, 2007

Background information: The National Food and Agricultural Council (NFAC) have issued guidelines for all USDA employees to follow to minimize the risk and prevent the spread of infectious diseases from livestock and poultry. The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has the lead for all USDA agencies. Please refer to 130 GM, Part 403, Subpart H, Amendment 14, dated March 2006; Homeland Security/Crisis Responsibilities Biosecurity Preparedness and Response, for NRCS policy.

Additional information is also available on the Washington State Department of Agriculture website at <http://agr.wa.gov/FoodSecurity/BiosecurityMeasures.htm>.

What To Do

- 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.
- NRCS employees will adhere to Level 1 biosecurity measures at all times or more stringent measures that the producer may have in place (ask before you enter.) Levels 2 and 3 may also be required by APHIS or the State Veterinarian during periods of heightened concern.

Level 1

Visits to Farms or Ranches that Entail Office or Home Visit Only

- Avoid livestock/poultry area, pens, barns, etc., unless it is necessary to complete the goal of the visit. This includes horses or work dogs.
- Park vehicle on paved or concrete areas, away from production sites on farms and avoid contact with dirt, mud and manure.
- Wash hands with antibacterial towelettes before entering and after leaving the premises to avoid transmitting disease agents from person to person.

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Level 2

Visits to farms or ranches where minimal contact with livestock/poultry or their housing (barns, pens, hutches, etc.) is unavoidable to attain the goal of the visit, i.e. property appraisals, tours of production facilities or dairy farm inspections. Contact constitutes walking through animal housing or pastures, but there is no contact with animals.

- Apply Level 1 measures plus
- Put on plastic boots immediately upon exiting the vehicles
- After returning to the vehicle, clean and disinfect any equipment used with antibacterial towelettes and dispose in a plastic bag.
- Remove plastic boots and place them in the plastic bag. The bag should be left on the premises for the owner/producers to dispose of, or placed in a designated 'dirty' area of the vehicle for removal later.

Level 3

Visits to farms or ranches when there will be close contact with livestock or poultry. (For example, walking through narrowly confined pens or lots where animals are within reach)

- Apply Level 1 and 2 plus
- Pre-plan the needed supplies and clothing for daily visits
- Put on disposable coveralls and plastic boots immediately upon exiting the vehicle.
- Upon completion, remove coveralls so that they are inside out and place in a plastic bag with the plastic boots, used towelettes paper towels or any other disposable materials. Dispose of the bag later when livestock contact is not possible.
- If vehicle gets contaminated with manure or mud, clean underside of vehicle, tires, and wheel wells at the nearest pressure washing station.

Supplies

Every NRCS vehicle that visits livestock or poultry operations will have a fully stocked "Biosecurity Kit". The kit will include:

- Red, clearly marked duffle bag
- Disposable coveralls
- Disposable plastic boots
- Antibacterial towelettes
- Paper towels
- Black plastic garbage bags
- Vinyl gloves
- First aid kit
- Eyewash

The Area Office will maintain a supply of kit contents for the field.

Any questions concerning this guidance should be directed to Frank Easter, SRC, at 509-323-2961 or Jerry Rouse, RMS, at 509-323-2974.

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State Conservationist