



Natural Resources  
Conservation Service

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April 17, 2015

NORTH DAKOTA BULLETIN NO. 360-15-4

SUBJECT: PER – SAFETY AND HEALTH – BIOSECURITY PROCEDURES

**Purpose:** To provide employees instruction regarding implementation of biosecurity measures when working with livestock and poultry producers.

**Expiration Date:** September 30, 2015

The National Food and Agriculture Council (NFAC) has issued guidelines for all USDA employees to follow to minimize the risk of spreading infectious diseases between livestock and poultry operations. The NFAC provides coordination of USDA's biosecurity activities among all department agencies, with the Animal and Plant Inspection Service (APHIS) taking the lead and providing technical guidance. National NRCS Biosecurity Policy can be found in General Manual, Title 130, Part 403, Subpart H.

#### Swine Facilities

Multiple cases of PEDv (Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea virus) have been confirmed at commercial swine facilities in the neighboring states of Minnesota and South Dakota within the last year. SECD (Swine Enteric Coronavirus Disease) is also cause for concern. As of 2012, North Dakota had 144 farms reporting over 20 head of swine on them. Given the ease of transport and high mortality rates of this disease, ND NRCS will limit field visits to these facilities by staff. Prior approval is required by the ASTC-FO, ASTC-O, SRC, or SCE for site visits that could involve even minimal contact with animal manure. Use of Level 3 biosecurity measures, as outlined in GM130-403-H is required at a minimum. Each area engineer is responsible for maintaining a biosecurity supply kit. Most individual swine facility operators have a biosecurity plan specific to their operation, and NRCS employees are expected to ask for and follow that guidance.

#### Poultry Facilities

Confirmed cases of HPAI (Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza) have occurred this spring at commercial and backyard poultry operations in ND, MN, SD, and MT. As of 2012, North Dakota had 840 farms reporting ownership of laying hens, 198 with broilers, and 74 with turkeys. Given the ease of transport and high mortality rates of this disease, ND NRCS will limit field visits to these facilities by staff. Prior approval is required by the ASTC-FO, ASTC-O, SRC, or SCE for site visits that could involve even minimal contact with animal manure. Use of Level 3 biosecurity measures, as outlined in GM130-403-H is required at a minimum. Each area engineer is responsible for maintaining a biosecurity supply kit. Some individual poultry facility operators have a biosecurity plan specific to their operation, and NRCS employees are expected to ask for and follow that guidance.

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### Confined Cattle Operations

North Dakota had confirmed cases of both Johne's Disease (mycobacterium paratuberculosis) and anthrax in cattle the last two years. As of 2012, North Dakota had 8,156 farms reporting over 20 head of beef cattle and 70 farms reporting over 20 head of dairy cattle. Use of Level 1 biosecurity measure, as outlined in GM130-403-H, is required at a minimum. Necessary supplies may be purchased via normal supply procedures. When the site visit is reasonably expected to entail direct contact with manure or animals in a confinement area, NRCS staff will offer implementation of Level 2 or 3 measures to the producer. If the NRCS employee intends to visit multiple confinement facilities within the same day, communicate that information to the producer. Each area engineer is responsible for maintaining a biosecurity supply kit. Some individual dairy and feedlot operators have a biosecurity plan specific to their operation, and NRCS employees are expected to ask for and follow that guidance.

In all cases, documentation of applied biosecurity measures and related communications will be made in the conservation assistance notes. Further information on biosecurity, and other diseases that North Dakota livestock operations may be at risk from, can be found at:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wps/portal/aphis/home>

<http://www.nd.gov/ndda/disease>

Contact Christi Fisher, State Conservation Engineer, or the responsible area engineer, with questions.

/s/

MARY E. PODOLL  
State Conservationist

DIST: AO, NDASCD, NDSU ES-SSCC