



Farm Security - "Treat it Seriously"

Security for Animal Agriculture: Prevention

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Threats to farm security can come from many sources. Intentional destruction or contamination of livestock is a possibility that producers must guard against. Safe substances may be used to produce unsafe or harmful combinations if used incorrectly or indiscriminately. These include chemicals, fertilizers, pesticides, and animal drugs. Farm management should secure and account for such products and report anyone acting suspiciously or wishing to obtain abnormal quantities of any substances.

According to the American Feed Industry Association's Guide to Biosecurity Awareness, animals and feed ingredients may become adulterated by the following means:

1. Biological (bacteria, toxins, viruses, parasites, etc.)
2. Chemical (classical chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals, such as pesticides, rodenticides, and heavy metals)
3. Radiological (agents that can be delivered in liquid or solid form)
4. Physical (metals, glass, and plastic)

Practice Farm Security

Ensuring the physical security of buildings and grounds is an important step in overall farm security. A conscious effort should be taken to assess and control security risks by recognizing and anticipating security issues before they surface.

- Have only one entry/exit from the farm that is clearly defined with signage.

- Consider using security lighting, perimeter fencing, and controlled gate access.
- Use electronic security devices, such as motion detectors, door alarms, video cameras, and alarms linked to an off-site security system.
- Padlock and limit entry into vital storage areas such as milk rooms and feed storage areas.
- Install entry prevention devices on exterior ladders, protecting them from unauthorized use and preventing access to the top of bulk storage tanks.
- Padlock entry and discharge points of exterior liquid tanks (above and below ground) when not in use.
- Lock all vehicles parked outside at night or during times of owner and employee absence.
- Secure or park containers inside, whether they are empty or loaded with product.
- Request local law enforcement to patrol farm perimeter at irregular times if there are perceived threats.
- Encourage employees to report suspicious behavior.
- Restrict access to computer data systems, secure on-line communications, and safeguard them with virus protection. Store back-up files off-site.

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- Consider security in construction design of new facilities.

Develop and Enforce a Visitor Policy

All visitors should check in with a designated farm representative. This procedure protects against unwanted visitors and helps account for all persons.

- Post signs informing visitors where to report.
- Limit access to other areas of the property by designating a specific area for visitor parking.
- Maintain a record of individuals' names and companies, arrival and departure times, and purposes of the visit.
- Use visitor badges or identification cards if needed and explain disease prevention to visitors.
- Do not allow visitors, including delivery personnel, contract providers, and service support, to have unlimited access to the premises.
- Restrict access to key areas such as milk, gasoline, and pesticide storage.

Prevent Animal Infection or Contamination

Animal infection or contamination can be either accidental or deliberate.

- Know the health history of purchased animals and segregate for 3 to 4 weeks after arrival on the farm with strict health monitoring before introducing to the herd.
- Maintain a vaccination program for all animals.
- Know the signs of reportable and foreign animal diseases and deal with unusual signs immediately.
- Provide disposable boots or disinfectant footbaths for any visitors.

- Prohibit any visitor to the operation if they have been outside the continental U.S. during the past two weeks, unless they can assure you that they have not been in close proximity to hoofed animals within the past five days.
- Restrict access to feed storage areas and areas where animals are housed.
- Secure perimeter fencing to prevent contact with livestock from neighboring farms.
- Limit direct contact with wildlife, including deer and birds.
- Prevent organic matter entry onto the animal facilities from sources such as vehicles, equipment, and runoff from other farms.
- Know the source and quality of purchased feeds and ensure that no protein supplement derived from ruminant tissues is fed to cattle, sheep, or goats.

Develop Employee Awareness

Security awareness should be for all employees. Everyone must vigilantly monitor the activities of visitors, service providers, and fellow employees.

- Ask applicants for a resume of qualifications and to complete a job application.
- Conduct background checks to establish a prospective employee's qualifications and demeanor.
- Institute an employment probationary period to properly evaluate a new employee's work habits.
- Train employees to recognize and report suspicious individuals or abnormal activities, security breeches, suspicious materials or devices, and misplaced equipment.
- Implement policies on appropriate personal protection equipment as dictated by management and required by law.

