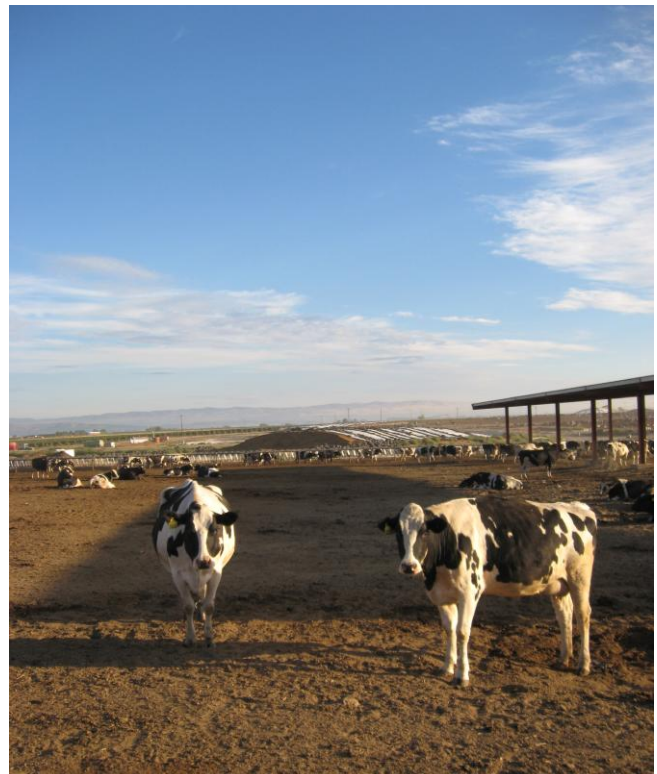


Dairy Disease Prevention Assessment Tool Dale A. Moore, DVM, MPVM, PhD

It's hard to put a price on prevention. Sometimes it seems like you will never see the benefit from the cash or time spent on it. But, would you stop vaccinating the herd and take the risk of having more abortions or respiratory disease? Some infectious diseases can shut down the dairy farm – like Foot and Mouth Disease – and others cause losses within the operation very subtly – like Footwarts, Johne's Disease or *Staph aureus* mastitis. Prevention becomes more of an insurance policy.

Preventing infectious diseases from entering or spreading throughout the dairy requires a set of specific management practices to be in place. The good news is that many of these practices are not costly. Based on an extensive review of the literature on disease prevention practices (biosecurity) and on-farm evaluation of these practices on dairies, a list of questions were modified, summarized and organized to define risky practices.

The following set of questions are designed to help the dairy producer and veterinarian identify disease transmission vulnerabilities; for both spread onto the farm and spread within the farm. The most important reason for introduction of new diseases onto the farm is **new cattle purchases**. The assessment tool is organized into sections with cattle purchases and livestock movements at the top of the list. The responses in **bold** are considered the least risky with regards to disease transmission. The purpose for each question is to bring about discussion on potential risks and how to lessen them.



Cattle Purchases and Livestock Movement

1. Do you have a closed herd? (<i>Do not bring new animals onto the dairy or allow animals to leave and return. This means no replacements, bulls, or show animals.</i>) <u>If YES skip to question #8</u>	Yes/ Always	Frequently	Sometimes	No/ Never	Not Applicable
2. How often did you bring <u>new</u> animals (<i>including all calves, heifers, bulls, cows</i>) into the herd in the last 12 months? (More than three times, once or twice)	Yes/ Always	Frequently	Sometimes	No/ Never	Not Applicable
3. Do you quarantine new herd additions? (<i>Quarantine means keeping new animals separate from the rest of your cattle for two to four weeks before they have direct contact.</i>)	Yes/ Always	Frequently	Sometimes	No/ Never	Not Applicable
4. If YES to Question 3, do you have an area used only for the quarantine of new animals?	Yes/ Always	Frequently	Sometimes	No/ Never	Not Applicable
5. Do you examine and test new additions for common diseases <u>or</u> require testing prior to purchase?	Yes/ Always	Frequently	Sometimes	No/ Never	Not Applicable
6. How often do animals <u>leave/reenter</u> the herd (<i>for shows, veterinary clinic, embryo transfer, etc.</i>)?	Yes/ Always	Frequently	Sometimes	No/ Never	Not Applicable
7. Do you quarantine livestock returning to the farm?	Yes/ Always	Frequently	Sometimes	No/ Never	Not Applicable

Reducing Transmission Onto the Farm

8. Do you have a perimeter fence or other farm perimeter control?	Yes/ Always	Frequently	Sometimes	No/ Never	Not Applicable
9. Do you have highly visible signs posted to restrict access to your facility?	Yes/ Always	Frequently	Sometimes	No/ Never	Not Applicable
10. Do you require visitors to sign in when entering your facility and disclose recent animal contact?	Yes/ Always	Frequently	Sometimes	No/ Never	Not Applicable
11. Do you minimize animal contact with people entering your facility?	Yes/ Always	Frequently	Sometimes	No/ Never	Not Applicable
12. Do you require clean clothing or coveralls on visitors entering your facility?	Yes/ Always	Frequently	Sometimes	No/ Never	Not Applicable
13. Do you require clean footwear or disposable boots on visitors entering your facility?	Yes/ Always	Frequently	Sometimes	No/ Never	Not Applicable
14. Do you have a designated visitor parking area?	Yes/ Always	Frequently	Sometimes	No/ Never	Not Applicable
15. Do you request that your employees avoid contact with livestock outside of your operation?	Yes/ Always	Frequently	Sometimes	No/ Never	Not Applicable

16. Do you require clean clothing or coveralls on your employees when entering your facility?	Yes/ Always	Frequently	Sometimes	No/ Never	Not Applicable
17. Do you require clean footwear on your employees when entering your facility?	Yes/ Always	Frequently	Sometimes	No/ Never	Not Applicable
18. Do you have a designated employee parking area?	Yes/ Always	Frequently	Sometimes	No/ Never	Not Applicable
19. Is rendering pickup designed to prevent rendering vehicles from bringing contamination to animal areas?	Yes/ Always	Frequently	Sometimes	No/ Never	Not Applicable
20. Are animals kept from contact with other livestock?	Yes/ Always	Frequently	Sometimes	No/ Never	Not Applicable

Reducing Transmission Within the Farm

21. Do you limit calving pens to calving only (<i>no isolation or sick animals</i>)?	Yes/ Always	Frequently	Sometimes	No/ Never	Not Applicable
22. Do you remove calves from their mothers at birth before they've had a chance to nurse?	Yes/ Always	Frequently	Sometimes	No/ Never	Not Applicable
23. Do you use single source colostrum (<i>not pooled from multiple cows</i>)?	Yes/ Always	Frequently	Sometimes	No/ Never	Not Applicable
24. Do you raise your calves on the dairy? If NO, Skip to Question #29	Yes/ Always	Frequently	Sometimes	No/ Never	Not Applicable
25. Do you utilize individual calf housing for newborn calves?	Yes/ Always	Frequently	Sometimes	No/ Never	Not Applicable
26. Do you feed waste milk to calves?	Yes/ Always	Frequently	Sometimes	No/ Never	Not Applicable
27. If NO to 26, do you pasteurize waste milk prior to feeding it to calves?	Yes/ Always	Frequently	Sometimes	No/ Never	Not Applicable
28. Do you limit nose to nose contact between animals of different groups?	Yes/ Always	Frequently	Sometimes	No/ Never	Not Applicable
29. Do you prevent young animals from coming into contact with manure from older animals?	Yes/ Always	Frequently	Sometimes	No/ Never	Not Applicable
30. Do you feed leftover/uneaten feed from lactating animals to young stock?	Yes/ Always	Frequently	Sometimes	No/ Never	Not Applicable
31. During chores, do employees move from "clean" younger animals to adult animals, then to isolation animals or are employees designated to work with specific groups of cattle -- only calves, only sick cows, only maternity, etc?	Yes/ Always	Frequently	Sometimes	No/ Never	Not Applicable
32. Do employees clean and disinfect boots when moving to special areas of the farm such as maternity and calf areas?	Yes/ Always	Frequently	Sometimes	No/ Never	Not Applicable

33. Do you use different equipment for feed and manure handling?	Yes/ Always	Frequently	Sometimes	No/ Never	Not Applicable
34. If NO to 33, do you clean equipment used for both manure/feed handling prior to using it for feed?	Yes/ Always	Frequently	Sometimes	No/ Never	Not Applicable
35. Do you have a pest control program? (<i>Rodents, birds and insect pests</i>)	Yes/ Always	Frequently	Sometimes	No/ Never	Not Applicable
36. Do you follow a set schedule for pest control maintenance?	Yes/ Always	Frequently	Sometimes	No/ Never	Not Applicable
37. Do you have a veterinarian necropsy animals that die from unexpected causes?	Yes/ Always	Frequently	Sometimes	No/ Never	Not Applicable
38. Do you keep common housing areas clean to prevent manure buildup or areas of stagnant water?	Yes/ Always	Frequently	Sometimes	No/ Never	Not Applicable
39. Do you keep bedding areas clean?	Yes/ Always	Frequently	Sometimes	No/ Never	Not Applicable
40. Are feed bunks designed to prevent people from stepping in them?	Yes/ Always	Frequently	Sometimes	No/ Never	Not Applicable
41. Are manure-contaminated truck or tractor tires kept from contaminating the feed (<i>in alleys or on feed pads</i>)?	Yes/ Always	Frequently	Sometimes	No/ Never	Not Applicable
42. Do you separate sick cows (<i>potentially contagious</i>) from healthy cows ASAP?	Yes/ Always	Frequently	Sometimes	No/ Never	Not Applicable
43. Do you isolate sick animals? (<i>Isolation means no contact between sick and healthy cattle.</i>)	Yes/ Always	Frequently	Sometimes	No/ Never	Not Applicable

References

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