



# TIPS FOR A BIOSECURE FARM SITE AND LAYOUT

Most farmers have an existing farm site and layout, therefore some of the significant decisions regarding biosecurity have already been made for them. However, there are things to take note of on an existing operation that may influence current and future biosecurity practices. Those starting with a new site, or looking at potential locations for new structures, have the luxury of being able to consider biosecurity during the planning process. Here are some things you should consider when looking at the effectiveness of biosecurity practices.

## SURROUNDINGS

- **Awareness of other animal production units**
  - » Are there neighbouring farms?
  - » Is there a shared fence-line with neighbouring livestock?
  - » Could escaped animals come into contact with animals outside of the herd?
- **Awareness of surrounding crops**
  - » Do adjacent fields have production practices or crops that may conflict with your own, i.e. spray drift to susceptible crops/alternate host for problematic insect pests?

## FARM LAYOUT AND MAINTENANCE

- **A limited number of access points to the farm**
- **Designated parking area and entrance for visitors and service providers**
  - » The parking area should be isolated from main production areas
  - » The service entrance should be located so that there is a direct path to the point of interest (feed bins, milk tank, loading dock, etc.)
- **The location of loading and unloading areas can help minimize the risk of pest and disease introduction and spread**

- **Have a gate at the end of the laneway for controlled farm access**
  - » Far back enough from the road that delivery vehicles can pull off
- **Make the laneway and yard easy to grade, remove snow, clean, etc.**
- **Farm office is clearly marked and located in an accessible area**
- **Equipment sanitation station is located away from production units**
- **Manure, compost, and waste storage is located away from water sources**
- **Physical barriers (fences) separating different areas on the farm (restricted areas, visitor parking, etc.)**
- **Position new barns and buildings in areas that reduce the risk of disease introduction and spread**
  - » Be aware of "problem" areas or old buildings and dump sites
- **Locate production areas on higher ground to promote good drainage and no standing water**
- **Manage vegetation**
  - » Grassed areas
  - » Weeds and volunteer plants

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