



TIPS FOR REDUCING RISK WHEN MOVING LIVESTOCK

One of the biggest risks when it comes to the introduction of new diseases to a farm is the movement of animals onto the farm. All new animals should have confirmation of individual and herd health status before bringing them onto the farm to minimize any risks to the health status of the current herd.

Here are some tips to help reduce the risk of disease contraction or spreading when moving livestock.

- **Animals from farms with disease control programs in place are less likely to be carrying diseases that will infect the current herd**
- **Animal introductions and removals should be recorded (and entered into traceability program if applicable)**
 - » If a disease issue occurs, tracking animal movement makes it easier to pinpoint the origin of the issue
- **New animals should be isolated before being introduced to the main herd**
 - » Separate from the main herd for 21-30 days
 - » Use separate boots and coveralls when tending to these animals, and do chores here last if possible
 - » This helps protect the main herd from pathogens being carried on new animals
 - » Allows time for new animals to acclimatize (less stress so less susceptible to issues)
 - » New animals need to be monitored frequently during the isolation period for disease
 - » Animals returning from shows, exhibitions, etc. should follow a similar protocol
- **Vaccinate new animals early during the isolation period**
 - » Allow at least one night to adjust to their new location before vaccination
- **When purchasing from a herd that does not have a documented health status, or from a sale where not all health information is available, it would be beneficial to test the new animal for common diseases**
- **The frequency and number of new animal introductions should be minimized to reduce the risk of disease transmission**
- **Limit the number of sources from which livestock is purchased**

Exhibitions and shows pose an interesting situation since they bring together animals not only from different farms, herds, and age groups but also animals of different species. It's important to isolate these animals when they have returned to the farm to ensure they have not contracted anything that they could pass to the remainder of the herd. Follow the below suggestions when taking animals to a show.

- **Ensure pens are clean before animals enter**
- **Feed and water your livestock separately**
- **Do not share equipment (disinfect if you must share)**
- **Diseased and injured animals are not fit for travelling and should not be sent from the property**

Use the "**Livestock Market and Show Log**" document to track information about animals moving on and off the farm.

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