



TIPS FOR HEALTH MONITORING IN ANIMALS

Monitoring animal health should be an on-going practice carried out by all members of the farm staff. When combined with preventative measures like vaccines and other biosecurity protocols, monitoring can help to identify issues early, allowing time to react and contain the spread of contagions.

The following tips will help establish a regular monitoring program.

- **Consult with a veterinarian regularly (herd health)**
- **Disease prevention or herd health program in place**
- **Animal health records kept up to date**
- **Sick animals isolated from healthy animals**
- **Established triggers for when to conduct an animal disease investigation**

Animals have the occasional off day, much like humans, but at what point is an off day a sign of something more serious?

- **Look for telltale signs and investigate further as needed**
 - » Weight loss, abnormal behaviour, loss of appetite, change in water consumption, etc.
- **Unexplained death investigated**

It is very important to investigate an unexplained death as the cause may be something that could impact more animals in the herd.

- **Observe animals regularly**
- **Maintain records of death and illnesses**
- **Recognize suspicious symptoms that may be associated with a contagious disease**
- **Identify unacceptable mortality rates and patterns**

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