



# International Travel Biosecurity Tips

## Best Practices for Producers

**Biosecurity is a series of management procedures to prevent the introduction and spread of disease into an environment.**

Diseases in livestock and wildlife vary geographically. When traveling, people can unknowingly transmit a disease to susceptible animals, and vice versa. If a foreign animal disease (FAD), such as Foot and Mouth Disease or African Swine Fever, is accidentally introduced into the United States (U.S.), the effects on livestock health and the economy could be catastrophic. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) advises international visitors or travelers returning to the U.S. to avoid farms, sale barns, stockyards, animal laboratories, packing houses, zoos, fairs and any other animal facility for **five days prior** to return travel. *After* arrival in the U.S. it is important to avoid contact with livestock and/or wildlife for an additional **five days**. People that have been exposed to an FAD may harbor virus particles in their throats and nasal passages for several days. Virus particles can also be carried on clothing, shoes, personal items, and within food products, specifically meat and animal products.

### Traveler Biosecurity Tips

International travelers should take extra precautions with livestock and/or wildlife contact, and are recommended to do the following (especially, if coming into the U.S. from a country experiencing an FAD outbreak):

- ◇ Before traveling to the U.S., launder, disinfect or dispose of clothing, shoes, equipment, and other items\* that may have been contaminated by exposure to livestock and/or wildlife.
- ◇ When visiting livestock and/or wildlife facilities, use protective gear such as disposable gloves or boots.
- ◇ Avoid animal facilities **five** days before *and* after travel.
- ◇ On the U.S. customs form, declare:
  - Visits to any livestock facilities and farms
  - All food items or products of plant and animal origin

\*Items such as luggage, jewelry, watches, and glasses are extremely difficult to disinfect if they become contaminated.



### Producer Biosecurity Tips

Producers should take extra biosecurity precautions when allowing international visitors on their premises:

- ◇ Ask visitors to provide information about recent travel and farm/animal contacts, and require all visitors to sign a log.
- ◇ Keep clean clothing and footwear available for visitors if they absolutely must enter the livestock areas.
- ◇ Discourage visitors from handling animals.
- ◇ Provide a shower in and shower out facility, if possible.
- ◇ Require all employees and visitors to adhere to the facility's biosecurity protocols.
- ◇ Report serious or unusual animal health problems to your veterinarian, state, or federal animal health officials.

#### Do Not:

- ◇ Allow visitors in the livestock areas unless it is necessary (use *clear signs* to designate biosecure or employee only areas).
- ◇ Allow soiled clothing, footwear, equipment, or high risk items onto the premises.
- ◇ Allow meat, animal products or food waste from foreign countries onto the premises.



For more information on whether a country has been recently affected by an animal or zoonotic disease:

[World Organization for Animal Health \(OIE\)](#)  
[World Animal Health Information System](#)

#### CDFA Animal Health Branch

Headquarters - (916) 900-5002  
 Redding District - (530) 225-2140  
 Modesto District - (209) 491-9350  
 Tulare District - (559) 685-3500  
 Ontario District - (909) 947-4462

**USDA-APHIS-VS** (916) 854-3950 or (877) 741-3690

For more information on the Animal Health Branch, please visit: [www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/animal\\_health](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/animal_health)

Additional information and resources:  
[Animal Health Branch Biosecurity](#)  
[Foot and Mouth Disease \(FMD\) Information](#)