

CONTINUITY OF BUSINESS

Continuity of Business (COB) is the management of non-infected premises and non-contaminated animal products in the event of a Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) outbreak. COB provides producers and associated industries a path to avoid interruptions in animal and animal product movements from premises with no FAD detection. Several states, such as California, support COB during an outbreak by implementing enhanced biosecurity measures through the Secure Food Supply (SFS) Program.

THE SECURE FOOD SUPPLY PROGRAM

The SFS Program is designed to allow business operations that are unaffected by the disease (i.e., negative for the disease) but are located within a Control Area to maintain some business operations and therefore economic viability. The SFS Program contains the following key elements:

Enhanced Biosecurity Plan:

A premises-specific enhanced biosecurity plan details the actions to be enacted and the requirements the premises must follow during an FAD outbreak.



Surveillance Sampling:

Frequent sampling is required for active disease surveillance to prove the negative disease status of the premises. The Incident Management Team (IMT) will determine the sampling requirements and frequency during an FAD outbreak.



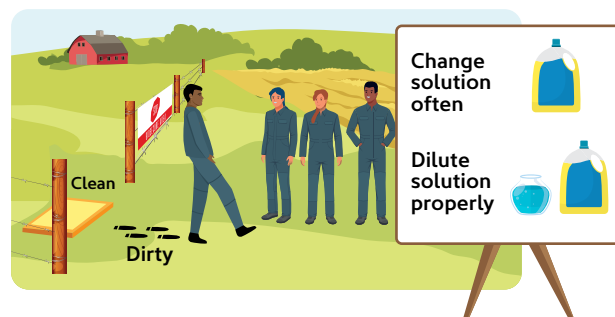
Flock or Herd Health Monitoring:

Regular reporting of animal mortality, water and food consumption, and production parameters is required as part of active disease surveillance. The IMT will determine frequency of reporting and the parameters to report.



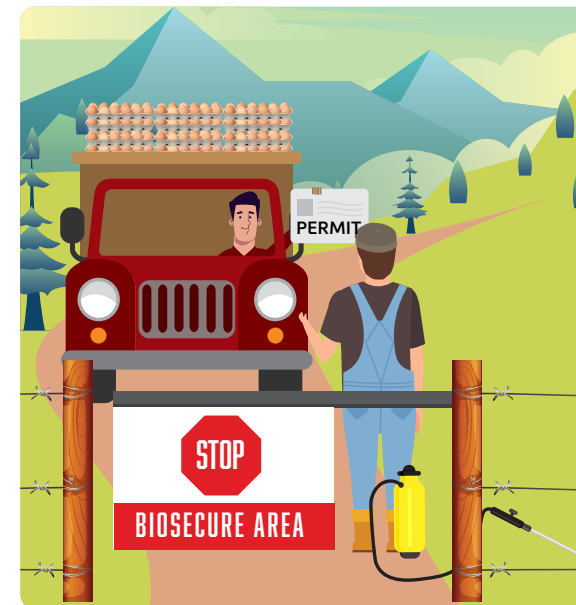
On-farm Personnel Training and Documentation:

Premises personnel will be trained on enhanced biosecurity practices, how to activate enhanced biosecurity plan elements, and sampling procedures.



PERMITTING MOVEMENT

Once the components of the SFS Program have been met, the premises may qualify for a product movement permit authorizing movement of animals, animal products, or necessary supplies between premises when the movement is into, out of, or within a designated Control Area.



COMPONENTS OF COB

- ✓ Conduct risk assessment of movements
- ✓ Implement SFS Program
- ✓ Manage movement with permits

BENEFITS OF COB

Establishing and using all components of COB is essential to a successful FAD response. The following benefits can be achieved by implementing enhanced biosecurity measures and COB requirements during a prolonged disease outbreak.

- Prevent disease transmission
- Protect agricultural industries
- Reduce economic loss
- Support industry
- Protect animal health and welfare
- Support public health
- Ensure food security and safety

“When a disease can destroy an industry and our ability to meet the demand for food, we all share four common goals: **prevent disease, slow/stop spread of the disease, eliminate the disease, and maintain business continuity.** These goals are 100% interdependent, but the first three are pointless if businesses do not survive.”

Dr. Annette Jones,
California State Veterinarian

