

GENERAL PREVENTION PRACTICES FOR SWINE PRODUCERS

Minimizing or preventing disease entry and spread on farms is the goal of an effective Biological Risk Management plan. To accomplish this, there are several general management practices that every farm could implement with minimal cost. If done properly, they can help prevent and control a variety of diseases. It is important to consult your veterinarian and seek his/her input while implementing disease control strategies. By working together, you will be able to identify and implement steps to “fit” your operation.

The following management recommendations address disease prevention and control without requiring you to know details about specific diseases. Simple and basic considerations include knowing what is in the area of your farm perimeter (e.g. farms, visitors, neighboring livestock and wildlife), people, vehicles, animal health protocols, recognizing and dealing with sick animals, isolation/quarantine, supply handling and cleaning and disinfection.

Farm Entrance and Perimeter

- **Limit access to your farm.**
 - The entrance to your farm is a major control point.
 - Have only one gated entrance to the animal areas on your farm to better control and monitor all visitors and vehicles arriving at your farm.
 - Lock gates to prevent unwanted human or animal entry.
- **Limit contact between your animals and others that may present a risk of disease.**
 - Minimize contact between pigs and wildlife, feral pigs, and birds.
 - Keep cats and dogs from roaming between farms.
- **Minimize visitors and traffic on your farm.**
- **Post signs at the farm entrance to inform visitors of procedures to follow on your farm. (See Appendix A)**
 - Stay off this farm unless given permission to enter.
 - Check-in with farm personnel upon arrival (direct visitors to “where” they should check-in).
 - Be accompanied by someone from the farm at all times (to ensure biosecurity measures are being followed).
 - Wear clean farm-specific clothing (coveralls, boots) while on the farm. (Be sure to guide visitors to where protective clothing is located).
 - Avoid contact with animals or animal areas unless absolutely necessary (this includes vehicles and visitors).

- **Delivery vehicles and personnel should follow your established farm biosecurity guidelines regarding parking, driving and animal contact.**
 - Inspect delivery vehicles for cleanliness prior to entering and provide a wheel well, tire and undercarriage wash station in case they are soiled.
 - Require feed deliveries to your farm be the first delivery of the day.
 - Require that all other deliveries be left at the perimeter of the farm.
 - Require delivery personnel to follow farm biosecurity procedures like all other visitors.
- **Place animal delivery and load out facilities on the perimeter of the farm.**

People and Vehicles

- **For the safety of your animals and the people who handle them, require that all individuals wash hands with soap and warm water before AND after animal contact.**

Employees

- **Employees that have contact with swine at other locations (including their own home) should use very strict biosecurity measures while on your farm.**
- **Implement strict biosecurity measures for employees coming onto the farm.**
 - Clean boots, hats and coveralls must be worn while on the farm. These should be provided by your farm.
 - Protective clothing should remain on your farm and be washed and/or disinfected before being worn again.
 - Disinfect footwear before entering AND after leaving any animal housing area.
 - Boot baths should be provided at the entrance/exit of all animal areas. The disinfectant solution should be changed at least daily or when visibly soiled.
- **Educate yourself and train your employees to recognize and report diseases.**
 - When all employees know what to look for regarding sick animals, a reporting system allows those in charge to make treatment decisions or decide if the veterinarian should be contacted.
 - Early identification of serious diseases can help minimize the risk of disease spread on your farm.
 - If unusual illness or signs are noticed, contact your veterinarian immediately.

GENERAL PREVENTION PRACTICES FOR SWINE PRODUCERS (CONT'D)



- **Maintain a written Biological Risk Management Plan and have regularly scheduled meetings to educate and update those involved.**
 - This is critical to make sure everyone is current on your operation's practices and provides the opportunity to make changes if needed.

Neighbors

- **Take steps to prevent disease spread from your neighbors' operation to yours.**
 - Do not share equipment or vehicles between farms.
 - If equipment must be shared, all manure and bedding should be removed, the equipment washed with warm water and soap, rinsed, disinfected and rinsed again before using it with animals from your farm.
 - As discussed under 'Employees', protective clothing and footwear should be farm specific. Always wear clean clothes or coveralls, gloves, hats, boots, etc. when coming in contact with animals.
 - Wash and disinfect boots, change gloves, hats, and clothes or coveralls before returning to your farm.

Visitors and Vehicles

- **Post warning signs telling visitors to only enter your farm with permission. (See Appendix A)**
- **Provide a phone number at the farm entrance for visitors to call and make an appointment.**
 - Biosecurity measures can be explained at that time and posted near the phone number for all to see.
- **All visitors should be accompanied by someone from the farm at all times.**
- **Prevent off-farm vehicles from driving onto your farm unless necessary.**
 - Require visitors and vehicles to park in designated areas at the entrance to your farm away from all animal areas.
 - Use only on-farm vehicles for transporting visitors within your operation.
 - Discuss your biosecurity protocols with delivery personnel regarding access, travel paths, etc.
- **Visitors should avoid livestock areas and be restricted from contacting or handling pigs (unless absolutely necessary).**
- **Strict biosecurity measures must also be implemented by all visitors to the farm.**
 - Clean coveralls, hats and disposable or disinfected rubber boots should be worn while on-farm in animal areas.

- Provide a well-maintained foot bath OR clean disposable boots and a receptacle near the entrance to the animal facility.
- After exiting animal areas, wash and disinfect boots OR remove them and dispose of them properly.
- When leaving your farm, visitors should remove all protective clothing and footwear provided by the farm and leave it in the designated area.

- **Facilities and equipment (pressure washers, brushes, hoses) for cleaning and disinfecting should be provided on the farm.**

Record Keeping

- **Traffic on or off your farm should be closely monitored and recorded. (See Appendix B)**
 - Maintain a log sheet to record all visitors and vehicles that enter your farm.
- **Maintain thorough and accurate records of animal movement.**
 - Document all animal movements, including the dates of introduction, where they came from and movements between separate units.
 - Each farm location must be treated as a separate unit or premises.

Animals

Animal Health

- **Review and update your vaccination and treatment protocols with your veterinarian at least once a year.**
- **Monitor and inspect animals at least daily for signs of illness.**
 - Investigate all animals with unusual signs or those unresponsive to treatment, especially those that die suddenly.
- **Clean equipment, boots and change clothing between animal groups with different health status and age group.**
- **Promptly euthanize animals that are not going to recover.**
 - Chronically infected animals can serve as an ongoing source for many disease causing organisms.
 - Properly dispose of the carcass (e.g. render, compost, bury or burn) according to local and state laws.
- **Have your veterinarian necropsy animals that die from unknown causes.**

GENERAL PREVENTION PRACTICES FOR SWINE PRODUCERS (CONT'D)



- This may help identify a potentially infectious disease before it becomes widespread on your farm.
- **Promptly remove dead animals from your operation as they can serve as a reservoir for many disease organisms.**
 - Render, compost, bury or burn dead animals in a timely manner so predators, wild birds and other animals do not spread disease.

New Introductions

- **An all in/all out policy is the best way to minimize disease introduction and allow for cleaning and disinfection of facilities.**
- **If this policy is not possible, limit the frequency and number of new introductions.**
- **Know the health status and the source of any animal(s) brought onto your farm.**
 - Obtain a complete herd health history prior to introducing new animals.
 - Request copies of vaccination and treatment records for all purchased animals.
- **Quarantine all newly acquired animals or reintroduced animals.**

Isolation and Quarantine

- **Isolation of sick animals is necessary to minimize disease exposure of others in your herd and quarantine is required to prevent exposure of your herd to new or returning animals.**
 - In addition to being removed from all other animal areas, isolation and quarantine facilities should be separate from one another.
 - Equipment (feed, treatment, restraint) should not be shared between isolation and quarantine animals.
 - If equipment must be shared, wash in warm water and soap to remove visible contamination, rinse, disinfect and rinse before removing from one location and moving it to another.
- **Immediately isolate sick animals from the herd to minimize disease spread.**
 - Prevent direct contact between isolated animals and others.
 - Prevent sharing ventilation, feed/water and equipment to minimize the risk of disease spread.
- **Use separate facilities, equipment and staff to handle isolated livestock.**
 - If this is not possible, at a minimum, handle or visit the isolated animals LAST.

- Clean and disinfect all equipment, clothing, boots, etc. that come into contact with ill and isolated animals.
- **Any animals that have recently been purchased or returned to the farm should be quarantined.**
 - New or returning animals (e.g., shows, breeding) can be infected with a disease without showing signs right away.
 - Quarantine allows time for a disease to develop in the animal, without exposing your entire herd to the disease agent.
 - Do not allow new additions and animals returning to share water, feed or facilities with your other animals.
 - Ideally animals should be quarantined at a separate location (premises).
- **Time spent in isolation and quarantine varies depending on the disease risk so this should be determined together with your veterinarian.**
 - It is a good risk management plan to test for key diseases before taking animals out of isolation or quarantine to make sure they are not carrying diseases that could be introduced into your herd.
 - Work with your veterinarian to establish what tests are appropriate for your animals.

Wildlife and Other Animals

- **Prevent contact with free roaming animals (e.g. wildlife, feral swine, cats, dogs, etc.).**
- **Control of wildlife may be difficult, but should be attempted.**
 - Keep farm access routes, parking areas, yards and storage areas clean and tidy to avoid attraction of birds or rodents.
- **Minimize bird contact and nesting in your operation.**
 - Birds are disease carriers and while it is nearly impossible to eliminate them from animal housing areas, steps should be taken to discourage their nesting and roosting.
 - Contact your local extension office or veterinarian for approved control methods in your area.
- **Maintain a rodent control program.**
 - Rodents harbor diseases that can affect pigs and can also readily contaminate feed.
 - Contact your local extension office or veterinarian for approved control methods in your area.
- **Secure all feed storage areas and clean up spilled feed to minimize access by pests.**

GENERAL PREVENTION PRACTICES FOR SWINE PRODUCERS (CONT'D)



- These steps will help minimize the number of pests by limiting available food sources.

Supply Handling

- **Always read and follow label directions for proper storage of vaccines and medications.**
 - Sunlight deactivates some vaccines and can render antibiotics worthless, causing poor protection or response to treatment when used in your animals.
 - Vaccines and medicines that need to be refrigerated are susceptible to changes in temperature and may not work if they get too warm (greater than 46°F) or too cold/frozen (less than 36°F).
 - Products that do not require refrigeration should be properly stored in a cabinet or other enclosure to restrict access by unauthorized individuals and minimize environmental exposure (e.g. sunlight and temperature extremes).
- **Monitor your supply refrigerator at least monthly to help ensure the products are adequately stored (36-46°F).**
- **Work with your veterinarian to teach proper procedures to all people who handle vaccines and medicines.**
 - Restrict access to only trained personnel.
 - Training should include proper handling and administration of these products plus when to use them.
 - Improper handling and storage can cause contamination which could cause disease.
 - Improper use of vaccines and medicines can make them ineffective and some can even be harmful to the person.
 - Prudent antibiotic use helps maintain effectiveness in treating disease.
 - Improper use of antibiotics can lead to the development of resistance and illegal residues.
- **For pigs housed on dirt flooring, turn over the top layer of soil to reduce the build up of pathogens and parasites.**
- **Use the proper concentration of any disinfectant (always mix according to the product label).**
- **Always allow a disinfection solution contact time to “sit” and work.**
 - To be effective, disinfectants need time to kill the microorganisms present.
 - Refer to the product label to determine the amount of time recommended (usually at least 5 minutes).

Cleaning and Disinfection

General Recommendations

- **Wear personal protective equipment—gloves, coveralls, rubber boots (or disposable boots) and a mask when cleaning out swine housing areas.**
- **Thoroughly clean all objects to remove any visible debris (manure, dirt, bedding) before applying a disinfectant.**
 - Most disinfectants are ineffective when dirt, manure and other debris are present.

GENERAL PREVENTION PRACTICES APPENDIX A



Sample signs to post at the farm entrance.

(Available from your state livestock extension specialist or the CFSPH web site at www.cfsph.iastate.edu)



Additional signage available from private companies (Those listed below are available from Gempler's).



GENERAL PREVENTION PRACTICES CHECKLIST FOR SWINE PRODUCERS



General Precautionary Measure

Y N Do you require that all individuals wash hands with soap and warm water before AND after animal contact?

Farm Entrance and Perimeter

Y N Do you limit access to your farm?

Y N Do you have only one gated entrance to the animal areas on your farm to better control and monitor visitors and vehicles?

Y N Do you keep the gate locked when not in use?

Y N Do you limit contact between your animals and others that may present a risk of disease?

Y N Do you keep cats and dogs from roaming between farms?

Y N Do you minimize visitors and traffic on your farm?

Y N Have you posted signs at the farm entrance to inform visitors to stay off your farm unless absolutely necessary?

Y N Have you posted a visitor biosecurity sign that clearly lists specific measures to follow when on your farm?

Y N Do you require visitors to follow your farm's biosecurity procedures?

Y N Do you require visitors to check-in with farm personnel upon their arrival?

Y N Do you require delivery vehicles and personnel to follow your farm biosecurity guidelines regarding parking, driving and animal contact?

Y N Do you inspect delivery vehicles for cleanliness and restrict entry to those with visible contamination on tires, wheel wells, etc?

Y N Do you require feed deliveries to your farm be the first delivery of the day?

Y N Do you require that all deliveries be left at the perimeter of your farm?

Y N Are your animal load out and delivery facilities located at the perimeter of your farm?

GENERAL PREVENTION PRACTICES CHECKLIST FOR SWINE PRODUCERS (CONT'D)



Employees

- Y N Do you talk to your employees about the disease risks associated with owning or handling pigs outside of your operation?
- Y N Do you require that employees that have contact with swine at other locations (including their own home) use strict biosecurity measures while on your farm (e.g. provide them with clean boots and coveralls to wear)?
- Y N Have you educated yourself and trained your employees to recognize and report diseases?
- Y N Do you maintain a written Biological Risk Management Plan and have regularly scheduled meetings to educate and update those involved?

Neighbors

- Y N Do you restrict the sharing of equipment or vehicles between farms?
- Y N If equipment must be shared, do you remove all manure and bedding, wash the equipment with warm water and soap, rinse, disinfect and rinse again before using it with animals from your farm?
- Y N Do you always wear clean clothes or coveralls, gloves, hats, boots, etc. when coming in contact with animals?
- Y N After contacting your neighbors livestock, do you wash and disinfect boots, change gloves, hats, and clothes or coveralls before returning to your farm?

Visitors and Vehicles

- Y N Have you posted warning signs telling visitors to only enter your farm with permission?
- Y N Do you provide a phone number at your farm entrance for visitors to call and make an appointment?
- Y N Are all visitors accompanied by someone from the farm at all times?
- Y N Do you use only on-farm vehicles for transporting visitors within your operation?
- Y N Do you require visitors and vehicles to park in designated areas at the entrance to your farm and away from all animal areas?

GENERAL PREVENTION PRACTICES CHECKLIST FOR SWINE PRODUCERS (CONT'D)



- Y N Do you restrict visitors from animal housing areas and from contacting or handling your pigs (unless absolutely necessary)?
- Y N Do you provide clean coveralls and disposable or disinfected rubber boots and require that these items be worn by all visitors at all times while in animal areas?
- Y N Do you provide facilities and equipment (pressure washers, brushes, hoses) for cleaning and disinfecting vehicles, boots, etc?

Record Keeping

- Y N Do you maintain a log sheet to record any visitors or vehicles that come onto your farm?
- Y N Do you maintain thorough and accurate records of animal movement?
- Y N Is each farm location treated as a separate unit?

Animals- Animal Health

- Y N Do you review and update your vaccination and treatment protocols with your veterinarian at least once a year?
- Y N Do you monitor and inspect animals for signs of illness at least daily?
- Y N Do you investigate all animals with unusual signs or those unresponsive to treatment, especially those that die suddenly?
- Y N Do you clean equipment, boots, and change clothing when between animal groups with different health status and age?
- Y N Do you promptly euthanize animals that are not going to recover?
- Y N Does your veterinarian necropsy animals that die from unknown causes?
- Y N Do you promptly remove dead animals and dispose of the carcass (e.g. render, compost, bury or burn) according to local and state laws?

Animals- New Introductions

- Y N Do you follow and all in/all out policy for pig barns to minimize disease introduction and allow for cleaning and disinfection?

GENERAL PREVENTION PRACTICES CHECKLIST FOR SWINE PRODUCERS (CONT'D)



- Y N If an all in/all out policy is not possible, do you limit the frequency and number of new introductions?
- Y N Do you limit purchases to a few sources with known and trusted herd health programs?
- Y N Do you obtain a complete herd health history prior to purchasing and introducing new animals?
- Y N Do you request copies of vaccination and treatment records for all purchased animals?

Animals- Isolation and Quarantine

- Y N Are your isolation and quarantine facilities removed from all other animal areas and separate from one another?
- Y N Do you prevent the sharing of equipment (feed, treatment, restraint) between isolation and quarantine animals?
- Y N If equipment must be shared, do you wash it in warm water and soap to remove visible contamination, rinse, disinfect and rinse it again before removing it from one location and moving it to another?
- Y N Do you immediately isolate sick animals from the herd to minimize disease spread?
- Y N Do you prevent direct contact between isolated animals and others?
- Y N Do you prevent the sharing of ventilation, feed/water and equipment between isolated or quarantined animals and others?
- Y N Do you use separate facilities, equipment, and staff to handle isolated livestock?
- Y N If it is not possible to use separate facilities, equipment and staff, do you handle or visit the isolated animals LAST?
- Y N Do you clean and disinfect all equipment, clothing, boots, etc. that come into contact with ill and isolated animals?
- Y N Do you quarantine all animals that are recent purchases or those that return to your farm?
- Y N Do you prevent new additions and animals returning from sharing water, feed, facilities or bedding with your other animals?
- Y N Have you determined together with your herd veterinarian the appropriate times for animals to spend in isolation and quarantine?
- Y N Do you test for key diseases before taking animals out of isolation or quarantine?

GENERAL PREVENTION PRACTICES CHECKLIST FOR SWINE PRODUCERS (CONT'D)



Animals- Wildlife, Other

- Y N Do you prevent your animals from having contact with free roaming animals (e.g. wildlife, feral swine, cats, dogs, etc.)?
- Y N Do you keep farm access routes, parking areas, yards and storage areas clean and tidy to avoid attraction of birds or rodents?
- Y N Do you minimize bird contact and nesting in your operation?
- Y N Do you maintain a rodent control program?
- Y N Do you secure all feed storage areas and clean up spilled feed to minimize access by pests?

Supply Handling

- Y N Do you always read and follow label directions for proper storage of vaccines and medications?
- Y N Are products that do not require refrigeration properly stored in a cabinet or other enclosure to restrict access by unauthorized individuals and minimize environmental exposure?
- Y N Do you monitor your supply refrigerator at least monthly to help ensure the products are adequately stored (36-46°F)?
- Y N Have you worked with your veterinarian to teach proper procedures to all people who handle vaccines and medicines?
- Y N Do you restrict vaccine and medicine access to only trained personnel?
- Y N Does your personnel training include proper handling and administration of vaccines and medicines plus when to use them?

Cleaning and Disinfection- General Recommendations

- Y N For pigs housed on dirt flooring, do you turn over the top layer of soil to reduce the build up of pathogens and parasites?
- Y N Do you thoroughly clean all objects to remove any visible debris (manure, dirt, bedding) before applying a disinfectant?
- Y N Do you always use the proper concentration of any disinfectant and mix according to the product label?

GENERAL PREVENTION PRACTICES CHECKLIST FOR SWINE PRODUCERS (CONT'D)



Y N Do you always allow a disinfection solution contact time to “sit” and work?

Y N Do you refer to the disinfectant label to determine the amount of contact time that is recommended?

Conclusion

Total number of: **Yes responses** _____ **No responses** _____

If you have 1 or more No responses, you have identified areas for improvement on your farm. Not all questions are equal in their risk of disease transmission, so it is important to work with your veterinarian to develop a management plan addressing the biggest risks first. This will help minimize the chance of diseases entering your farm. Each farm will be unique in their ability to prevent disease transmission because management styles, herd sizes and finances vary.

General Disease Prevention Practices For Farms

This document outlines basic biosecurity measures that should be used daily on farms, as well as additional biosecurity measures to take during an animal disease emergency

Daily Prevention Practices

Two of the biggest risks for disease entry include animals and traffic (vehicles and people).

- Restrict access to your farm
 - Post signs at the farm's entrance (e.g., Do Not Enter, Authorized Personnel Only)
 - Limit access to employees or people with appointments
 - Require visitors to sign in and disclose recent contact with animals
 - Limit livestock contact with wildlife, birds, roaming cats, dogs
- Purchase animals from known sources and from a limited number of sources
- Quarantine animals new to the farm
- Isolate sick animals
- Keep detailed health records on every animal
- Train employees to inspect and report sick animals
- Report animals with unusual illness or those that are not responding to treatment

Disease Prevention by Method of Spread

To prevent diseases spread by air droplets:

- Increase distance between sick and well animals
- Maximize ventilation in barns and facilities to increase fresh air, decreased humidity, decreased odor

To prevent diseases spread by direct contact:

- Restrict access to your farm
- Limit contact between animals; isolate sick animals
- Keep environment clean and dry
- Clean and disinfect equipment, vehicles and footwear

To prevent diseases spread by food, water, or objects:

- Keep feed and water sources clean
- Properly manage and dispose of manure and bedding
- Clean and disinfect equipment

To prevent diseases spread by insects, such as mosquitoes, biting midges, flies and ticks:

- Reduce the source and habitats of these insects (e.g., remove areas of standing water, remove fecal matter from environment)
- Minimize animal exposure to these disease vectors

Prevent Disease Introduction onto Your Farm during an Animal Health Emergency

- Restrict movement of animals (Note: movement restrictions for animals, animal products, and vehicles may be issued by the State)
- Restrict access to essential personnel only
- Record all traffic and visitors to the operation
- Monitor animals frequently for signs of illness or disease; notify your veterinarian of any unusual signs or death
- Wear gloves, clean coveralls, boots at all times; Wash hands between animal groups or farms
- Disinfect vehicles, footwear and equipment frequently, especially between groups of animals
- Disinfect with an appropriate product, making sure to use the proper concentration and recommended contact time
- Vaccination or treatment of animals will be subject to approval by State or Federal animal health authorities depending on availability and the disease of concern

For More Information

Center for Food Security and Public Health (CFSPH).
Biological Risk Management for Producers.
<http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/BRM/>



www.iowahomelandsecurity.org



www.cfsph.iastate.edu



www.iowaagriculture.gov

Cleaning and Disinfection Protocol

Remove all grossly visible debris.

The presence of gross contamination or organic material, especially feces, will inactivate most disinfectants.

Wash the area or item with water and detergent.

Thoroughly rinse the cleaned area to remove any detergent residue.

Some disinfectants may be inactivated by detergents; therefore, it is very important to rinse well after washing the area or item.

Allow the area to dry completely.

Select and apply an appropriate, effective disinfectant.

Allow the proper contact time!

This is one of the most overlooked steps!! Contact time may vary depending on the disinfectant selected, but is usually at least 10 minutes. Consult the product label.

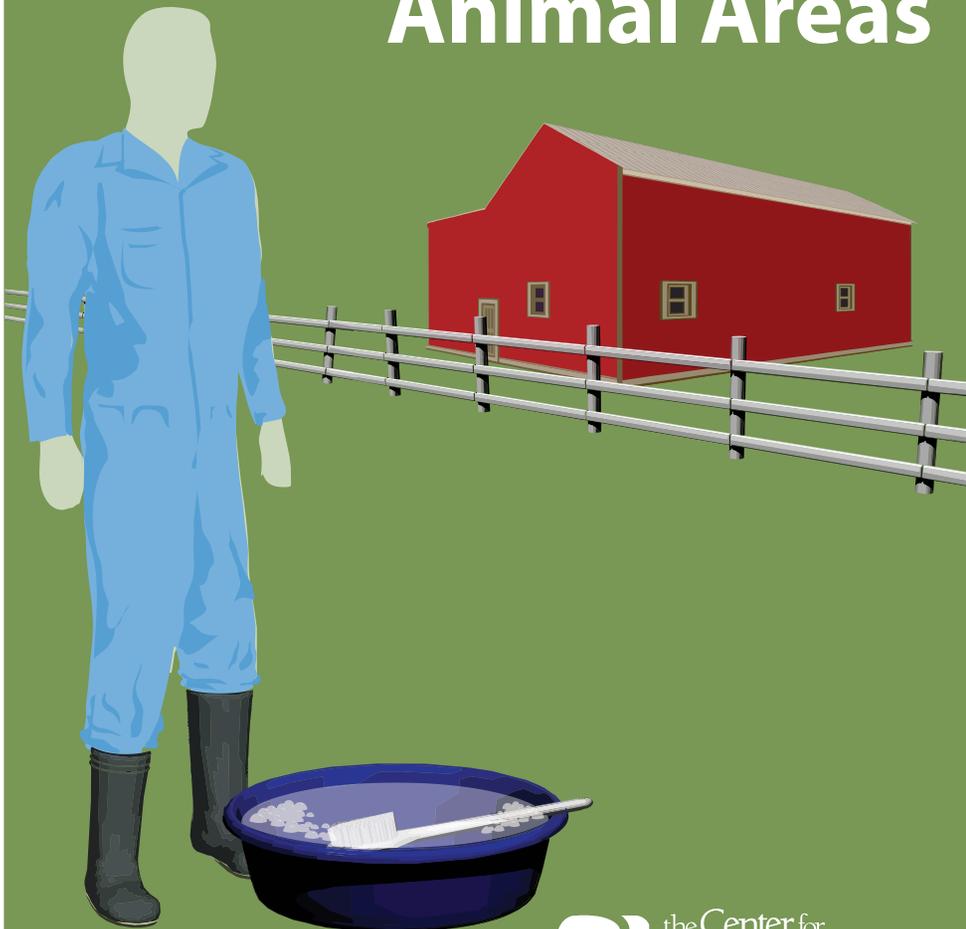
Thoroughly rinse away any residual disinfectant and allow the area or item to dry.



WASH YOUR HANDS

- **Wet hands and forearms with warm water**
- **Add at least 3-5 mls of soap (the size of an olive)**
- **Lather up and vigorously scrub each side of the hands beyond the wrist for 10-30 seconds, cleaning under rings and scrubbing dirty fingernails**
- **Rinse under warm water until no soap residue remains**
- **Turn off running water with a paper towel, not bare hands**
- **Dry hands with paper towel or hot air dryer**

Policies for Visitors Contacting Animals or Entering Animal Areas



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- Clean coveralls, hats, and disposable or disinfected rubber boots will be provided by the farm and must be worn while in animal areas
- Boots must be clean before entering animal areas
- Wash hands with soap and warm water before AND after handling animals
- Boots must be washed and disinfected or removed and disposed of properly after exiting animal areas
 - Clean all dirt, manure, and debris off of boots BEFORE stepping into the disinfectant solution
 - Allow the disinfectant solution to have ample contact time with the boot surface
- When leaving, remove all protective outer clothing and footwear provided by the farm and leave it in the designated area
- For your own protection, wash your hands with soap and warm water before leaving the farm

FARM VISITOR POLICIES



**Comply with all
posted signs, rules,
and biosecurity regulations
on this farm.
Your cooperation
is appreciated for your
own safety and the
health of our animals.**

- Only enter this farm with permission
- Park at the entrance or in designated parking areas
- Check-in with farm personnel upon arrival and sign the visitor log
- Follow instructions provided by farm personnel at all times
- Leave deliveries in areas designated by farm personnel
- All visitors must be accompanied by farm personnel at all times
- Do not handle or contact animals unless permission is granted by farm personnel