

## **Routine Biosecurity Measures for On-site Farm Visits or Other Livestock Concentration Points**

Biological security measures should be considered standard operating procedures in animal agriculture sectors. These controls are meant to mitigate the risk of disease introduction and spread. Control measures will vary according to type of operation and location of site. Personnel working with livestock must take steps to ensure a reasonable level of biosecurity is practiced in order to protect themselves, producers and the livestock industry. The steps outlined below are the minimum standards that should be followed by all persons conducting visits to farms or other livestock concentration points in Georgia. Owners and producers may require more stringent biosecurity measures that should be followed accordingly. This includes confinement units requiring shower in / shower out at entry and exit respectively.

### **Biosecurity Levels**

Routine levels of biosecurity are described below. Pre-plan the needed supplies and clothing required for each biosecurity level. These steps should be repeated for each premise that is visited. When in doubt as to which level of biosecurity is needed, choose the higher level.

**Level 1 - Basic Biosecurity Measures:** To be followed when visits to farms or facilities involve office or home visits only with no contact with animals or their housing, except for equine and pets. Examples include visits to a farm office, livestock sales establishment office or general public areas. Also includes contact with equine and pets that appear clinically normal (equine and pets are considered lower risks).

- Park your vehicle in such a manner to avoid driving your vehicle into or through animal production sites. If you must drive through animal production areas, assure that vehicle tire and wheel wells are appropriately cleaned (free of organic debris) and disinfected prior to leaving the premises. If this cannot be accomplished on the farm, then clean and disinfect at the nearest location.
- Clothes and footwear should be free of organic debris
- If possible, avoid livestock areas, pens, barns, etc.
- Assure hands are clean before entering and after leaving the premises.
- Remove as many insect vectors from vehicle as possible.

**Level 2 - Enhanced Biosecurity Measures:** To be followed when visits involve livestock and poultry production areas with no direct contact or minimal contact with the animals. Animal contact should be kept to the minimal level necessary to attain the goal of the visit. Minimal contact constitutes walking through animal housing areas or pastures when the animals are not within reach. Examples include poultry pit inspections, livestock sales establishment visits with no physical contact with animals, livestock appraisals, and tour of livestock or poultry production facilities. Level 2 is usually not necessary for equine and pets.

Apply basic biosecurity measures (level 1 above) plus the following:

- Wear clean rubber boots or new disposable boot covers upon exiting the vehicle. Disposable boot covers should be worn only when performing limited activities to avoid damaging the plastic and compromising biosecurity.
- After returning to your vehicle, clean and disinfect any reusable equipment that was used, including rubber boots, with a brush and USDA approved disinfectant solution (see listed supplies). Dispose of disinfectant solution appropriately and in accordance with label directions.
- If wearing disposable boots, remove and dispose in a manner that prevents exposure to other livestock. Place in a trash receptacle on the farm (near vehicle), or place in a garbage bag in your vehicle to dispose later.

**Level 3 - Moderate Biosecurity Measures:** To be followed when there is close or direct contact with livestock or poultry. Examples include walking through narrowly confined areas where animals are within reach or actually handling/inspecting the animals (i.e. milking parlors, poultry houses, poultry sales establishments, livestock sale establishments, swine operations, performing herd work). This also includes handling of equine in certain disease situations (e.g. strangles, equine influenza, etc.)

Apply enhanced biosecurity measures (level 2 above), plus the following:

- Wear clean clothing free of organic debris or freshly-laundered clothing; Coveralls are preferred; Use best judgment or seek direction from your supervisor (if applicable).
- Remove soiled clothing before entering your vehicle and place soiled clothing in a plastic bag. Designate “dirty” areas in your vehicle to dispose/store used clothing and equipment. If not possible to remove soiled clothing before leaving the premises, remove soiled clothing before visiting other livestock premises.
- Take precautions to ensure inside of vehicle remains clean so that freshly-laundered clothes and the vehicle do not become contaminated.
- Designate a “clean” area in your vehicle to place clean equipment and boots.
- At the end of the day, dispose of plastic trash bags that contain dirty supplies in a manner that prevents exposure to other livestock. Launder all coveralls and /or clothing. Personal hygiene should include shampooing hair and cleaning under fingernails.

**Level 4 – High Biosecurity Measures:** To be followed when a confirmed or suspected highly contagious disease exists (FMD, highly pathogenic avian influenza, etc.). Visitors to farms or concentration points must follow this protocol regardless of personal contact with livestock or their housing. More stringent measures may be necessary depending on the specific disease, species involved and zoonotic potential. Level 4 will most commonly be used by State Agricultural Response Team personnel.

- Level 4 requires additional personal protective clothing. The timing of premises visit should be scheduled (i.e. early morning, night, etc.) to reduce risk of animal disease spread and minimize personal health risk caused by extreme environmental factors (heat).
- Vehicles must not be taken onto premises. Vehicles must be parked on a public road right-of-way and personnel must walk onto premises.
- Appropriate disinfectant for disease situation must be used and in accordance with label instructions and dilution (i.e. Virkon for FMD).
- A disposable (Tyvec) suit must be worn with rubber boots or disposable booties, disposable gloves, disposable head covering and surgical mask. Use duct tape to seal gloves and Tyvec sleeve and boots and Tyvec pant leg. A waterproof suit (pants and long sleeve jacket) may also be necessary, depending upon conditions. Use best judgment or seek direction from your supervisor (if applicable).
- Personal protective equipment should be used if the disease is suspected or determined to be zoonotic. This includes eye protection or respiratory protection (dust masks) in case of airborne pathogens that could be mechanically spread by mucous membrane contamination. This could be especially important in confinement housing and dusty environments. Use best judgment or seek direction from your supervisor (if applicable).
- Spare disposable gloves must be taken with you stored in sealed plastic bag that will be disposed before leaving the premises.
- The minimum amount of equipment necessary should be taken onto premises. All equipment taken onto premises must stay on site or be disinfected before leaving the premises. Mobile phones, watches, and other items that are necessary but cannot be disinfected should be

maintained in sealed waterproof bags while on the premises. If photos must be taken for documentation, a disposable waterproof camera is recommended.

- A disinfection point should be set up just outside the premises before entering.
- Before entering the site, waterproof suit, boots, and equipment must be thoroughly wetted with disinfectant. (Tyvek suits are not water proof and should not get wet.)
- When leaving the site, all disposable items that have been used (garbage, waterproof bags, disposable suits, etc.) must be placed in a sealed, heavy gauge plastic (biomedical waste) bag. The sealed bag must be dipped in or thoroughly sprayed with appropriate disinfectant and placed in a second sealed, heavy gauge plastic bag and carried to an identified disposal center.
- When leaving the site, reusable waterproof suits and rubber boots must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected, paying particular attention to boot treads, pockets and inside pant legs. Exposed areas of skin including the face, hands, and wrists should be cleaned with soap and water or sanitizer and nails scrubbed. Watches and other items must be disinfected (if not maintained in a waterproof bag). Cleaned and disinfected waterproof suits and rubber boots must be placed in a sealed plastic bag in your vehicle; they may require further cleaning and disinfecting.
- Vehicle tires and wheel wells must be cleaned and disinfected prior to leaving the roadside.
- Prior to visiting another premises or going home, your vehicle must be washed, preferably at an automatic car wash center.

**Biosecurity Supplies Needed for Levels 1-3:**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Coveralls - cloth (2) *</li><li>▪ Rubber boots (1) *</li><li>▪ Disposable boot covers 6 mil (1 Box of 25) *</li><li>▪ Disposable latex (or vinyl) exam gloves (1 Box) *</li><li>▪ Virkon disinfectant (500 gm shaker bottle; 10gm makes 1 qt) *</li><li>▪ Long handled scrub brush and sponge *</li><li>▪ Heavy duty plastic bags (1 Box of 42 gal, 3 mil) *</li><li>▪ Paper towels *</li><li>▪ Hand held spray bottle *</li><li>▪ Hand pump sprayer (3 gal) *</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Bucket (11 qt) *</li><li>▪ Hoof pick or suitable boot tread pick*</li><li>▪ Liquid and/or gel antibacterial soap or disinfectant hand wipes *</li><li>▪ Nail brush *</li></ul> |
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**Extra Supplies Needed for Level 4:**

- Waterproof rainsuit (jacket & pants)
- Tyvec disposable coveralls (case of 25)
- Zip lock bags (1 qt & 1 gal, 1 Box ea)
- Portable 6 gallon water dispenser
- Surgical cap and masks (25 ea)
- Safety glasses or other eye protection
- Duct tape

\* These items represent a 48 hour supply and should remain in the vehicle at all times. The remaining items should be readily available if Level 4 is required.

These procedures have been adopted by:

- Georgia Department of Agriculture
- U.S. Department of Agriculture Veterinary Services Georgia Area Office
- Georgia Veterinary Medical Association
- College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Georgia

Note: (1) Georgia licensed veterinarians may modify the above protocols on a case-by-case basis in accordance with standards of practice. (2) Animal carcasses should be disposed in accordance with O.C.G.A. §4-5-1 et seq. Dead Animal Disposal Act.

*Georgia Department of Agriculture  
Office of the State Veterinarian and Assistant Commissioner of Animal Industry*