BIOSECURITY / SECURITY CHECKLIST
For the Dairy Farmer/Owner

DAIRY INDUSTRY

Biosecurity and security are part of an all-hazards approach to Dairy Safety

BE PREPARED

☐ Create a Biosecurity plan for your dairy/farm operation, to be included with your Emergency Plan.

☐ Review the National Milk Producers Federation website, (http://www.nmpf.org/govlissues/index.cfm), Biosecurity for Dairy Facilities www.mass.gov/agr/animalhealth/dairy_facility_biosecurity.htm or other websites for more information.

☐ For assistance with these plans, contact the New Jersey Department of Agriculture – Division of Animal Health at 609-292-3965.

BE ALERT

☐ Talk with your county Emergency Management Coordinator. Let him/her know about your farm’s needs and concerns, if there was a disaster or an emergency. Learn about your county’s disaster and emergency procedures and incorporate the following into your plan:

☐ Understand the hazards/risks associated with your area.

☐ Depending on the size of your operation, understand how to and where to evacuate your animals, family and workers or how to provide care if relocation is not feasible.

  ▪ Understand the notifications indicating this condition.
  ▪ For appropriately sized operations, develop an emergency disaster travel kit for your animals. (See www.NJHomelandSecurity.gov/animals Plain Talk on Protecting Livestock/Pets brochures for more information.)

☐ Develop procedures to implement if there is a breach in security concerning your farm.
Develop a list of important phone numbers, with contact names, such as the following: (keep at an on-site and off-site location)
- Police / Fire / EMS: 9-1-1
- Farm’s/Facility’s Veterinarian
- Local Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension Agent
- County Emergency Management Coordinator
- NJ Dept. of Agriculture – Division of Animal Health (609-292-3965)
- NJ Dept. of Health and Senior Services
- Emergency Notification List, including after hours numbers (e.g. owner, supervisors, workers, vendors, suppliers, etc.).

Maintain awareness of the location of visitors and vendors.
- Post signs to inform visitors of rules to follow while on the premises.
- Monitor and document all visits and visitors to your farm/facility.
- Avoid taking visitors to livestock areas or barns, unless necessary and then appropriately supervised.

Notify authorities of people taking unauthorized pictures or asking questions about operations, security, etc.

Watch for and report signs of tampering with equipment, feed, water, products, buildings and utilities.
- Have written procedures on steps to take if you suspect or find evidence of contamination or tampering with food/feed products, equipment, etc., within your operations.

Watch for unusual signs that may indicate possible bioterrorism.
- Unusually high number of sick animals, deaths or abortions.
- Abnormal or unusual signs not typically seen for a particular disease.
- Disease occurrence outside of its normal expected season
- Unusual route of exposure suspected.
- Multiple animal species are sick/dead, e.g. cows, barn cats, rodents, etc.
- Both the owner/worker and animal are ill.

Talk with your Veterinarian or Extension Agent to become familiar with the signs of the various foreign animal and dairy diseases and pathogens.
- If seen in your animals, immediately contact your Veterinarian, the Extension Agent and the NJDA State Veterinarian.

Maintain situational awareness of world events and on-going threats.

Train employees to be alert, vigilant with their surroundings, and notify you if they see suspicious activity.
BE SECURE

- Establish Standard Operating Procedures for all areas of your dairy operations.
- Limit access to your dairy, and secure entrances and sensitive areas when not in use.
  - Limit farm access to one gated road and keep locked when not in use.
  - Keep storage areas and feed bins locked
  - Restrict access to the bulk milk tank and milk house and lock when not in use.
    - Insist that your milk hauler utilize security locks on the bulk tanker.
    - Discuss with your milk handler disaster transportation issues.
- Limit access to the water/electrical supply.
  - If feasible, secure them to prevent tampering.
- Plan for alternate means for electrical power.
  - Assess the entire dairy operation for generator needs, including milk house, water systems and fuel.
    - Inspect, calibrate, and test generators under load.
- Install a security policy and security measures for deliveries.
  - Purchase feed and all other supplies from known, reputable firms and individuals.
  - Require deliveries to be transported in company-identified vehicles.
  - Restrict deliveries to scheduled appointments and be present for all deliveries.
    - Do not accept damaged or questionable deliveries or items.
    - Once delivered, place all feed additives and drugs in locked storage areas.
- Maintain up-to-date inventories, especially on restricted-use supplies, hazardous and perishable materials. Investigate discrepancies immediately.
  - Keep invoices on file.
- Inspect feed and supplies for tampering, contamination, and spoilage.
  - Plan for alternate feeding strategies, to minimize milk production losses.
- Conduct pre-employment screening for all prospective staff.
- Keep vehicles and equipment locked and keys secured, when not in use.
- Maintain adequate lighting and security measures.
  - Report any repairs that need to be made and follow up to see that they are done.
BE SECURE (continued)

- Restrict access to computers and sensitive documents.
  - Protect computer data with virus protection.
- Shred sensitive documents before discarding.
- Train employees to be secure and notify you if they detect a breach in security.

BE CLEAN

- Limit access to sensitive areas and enforce visitors/vendors to follow posted rules.
  - Avoid taking visitors to livestock, barns or storage areas.
- Keep chemicals, medications, and hazardous materials separate from consumable products.
  - Secure and restrict these areas.
- Follow sanitary practices to eliminate the spread of disease. This applies to people, as well as equipment.
  - Utilize clean outer garments/coveralls and rubber or disposable boots when entering farm facilities.
    - Place “dirty” coveralls in a plastic bag and disinfect rubber boots after farm work is completed.
  - Avoid the transfer of dirt, mud or manure by vehicles and equipment.
    - Park vehicles away from barns and livestock areas, preferably on concrete.
    - Have a vehicle cleaning protocol in place for all delivery and transport trucks.
    - Do not use manure-handling equipment to handle or move feed.
    - Thoroughly clean and disinfect feeding equipment and vehicles.
  - Provide hand-washing facilities.
    - Encourage through hand washing with disinfectant soap before and after accessing livestock areas.
  - Attend to vehicles carrying livestock at all times.
- Control animals’ direct exposure to wildlife, insects, rodent, bird, and other animal species, which could be the potential source of disease transmission.
- Isolate all new animals and keep separate from other on-farm animals.
  - Call herd veterinarian immediately if signs of unusual illness are noticed.
Keep the Garden State Safe

BE CLEAN (continued)

- Feed young stock first and sick stock last to prevent the spread of disease.
- Train employees on common disease signs and patterns, so they will recognize unusual illness in animals and immediately alert you.
- Train employees to be clean and to notify you if they see discrepancies.

BE CURRENT

- Practice emergency drills with your employees.
- Review and update your plan.
  - After each drill, if necessary.
  - Every year.

NOTIFY/CALL

- If you suspect suspicious activity call local law enforcement and 1-866-4-SAFE-NJ.
- If you notice unusual signs of disease, illness or deaths in animals/agriculture, notify the farm/facility’s Veterinarian, local Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension Agent, and the NJ Dept. of Agriculture’s Division of Animal Health (609-292-3965).
- Train employees to notify you if there are concerns/problems.
  - Train them on the proper response procedures.
  - If tampering/contamination are suspected, isolate the suspected food/feed/livestock.
  - Monitor livestock and facilities until authorities arrive.
- Train your employees on your plan and to Be Alert, Be Secure, Be Clean and Notify/Call.