

# Memorandum

**Date:** 22 October 2001

**To:** College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES) Employees

**From:** CFAES Committee to Develop Precautionary Policies for Food Producing Animals and Horses

**Subject:** CFAES Precautionary Policies for Food Producing Animals and Horses

The CFAES committee for developing precautionary policies for use of food producing animals and horses has met to evaluate the policies that were put in place in June 2001. The policies have been revised, but we will not at this time or likely ever go back to some of the practices that were in place before the foot and mouth situation developed.

The following policies are to be followed until further notice from this committee:

- “No Visitors Without Permission” signs will be posted at the entrance(s) to all the CFAES animal facilities.
- All CFAES animal facilities will be off limits to visitors without prior permission granted by the Administrator that is responsible for the specific unit or a designee of the administrator (Animal Unit Supervisor or Manager). Animal Unit Supervisors and Managers are required to take precautions that are defined later in this document to maintain measures of biosecurity so as to decrease the likelihood of a disease introduction. When permission is given by the administrator or administrator’s designee, visitors shall abide by a “5-day guideline”: no visitors will be permitted if they have been outside of the United States within the 5 days prior to coming into contact with University-owned animals.
- Visitors of the students housed in the residences at the Animal Units will be restricted by the following:
  - These visitors cannot go into the animal areas.
  - No visitors will be allowed if they have been outside of the United States within the 5 days prior to coming into contact with University-owned animals.
- Visitors to University sponsored events that may involve animal contact or the contamination of animal housing or feeding areas (including pastures), will be advised not to attend if they have been outside of the United States within 5 days prior to the visit. Notices on this policy will be printed on field day programs.

- All deliveries to University Animal Units should be managed in a fashion so that delivery personnel go straight to the office at the unit. This means that delivery personnel must be informed as to the location to which they are to make deliveries, and unit managers should ensure that adequate signage is in view to prevent inadvertent misdirection of delivery personnel.
- No University food-producing animals shall be taken off campus without permission of the administrator or administrator's designee that is involved with supervision of the University Animal Unit. If permission is given and animals leave campus, they cannot return directly to the livestock units and commingle with other animals, but must be quarantined for at least 21 days (for guidelines see document entitled: Biosecurity Disease Quarantine Recommendations that shall be Followed when Introducing Animals into Herds/Flocks or University Animal Units). Any campus events that utilize animals from the units must ensure attendees at the event abide by the "5-day guideline": no participants will be permitted if they have been outside of the United States within the 5 days prior to the event.
- All policies will be re-evaluated in September 2002

Biosecurity for food animals has become a very important issue with recent events that have transpired in the USA. Because of the business that we conduct at The Ohio State University (OSU) and other Land Grant Universities, we are at greater risk for a disease outbreak, whether those who desire to infect the animals of our herds or flocks plan it or whether it is accidental. We have to, however, continue to conduct our mission in serving the public. To do so will require us to provide greater access to University-owned animals than would be the necessity in the private sector. Therefore, if we are going to maintain proper biosecurity measures, all of our employees will have to be highly surveillant in maintaining a level of biosecurity that will reduce the probability of introducing diseases into the animals in our herds or flocks. The following biosecurity measures shall be followed unless permission is given by the appropriate administrator to deviate from these policies.

- Institute and abide by a well-devised biosecurity plan to include clean, laundered outerwear and disposable plastic boots (such as those available at PBS). All visitors to animal units shall be required to wear disposable plastic boots. The costs for the boots shall be incurred by the people touring the unit unless other appropriate measures are taken to defer the costs of the boots. The leader of the tour group is responsible for collecting the boots at the end of the tour and placing them in a plastic bag. The plastic bag containing the boots shall be placed in an appropriate disposal area after completion of the tour.
- Under no circumstance should employees of OSU or visitors to the animal units wear clothes or shoes that have been worn in a foreign country where exposure to food animals or horses occurred.
- Antiseptic lotions shall be available for use by visitors when they tour Animal Units. The person leading the tour shall make absolutely sure that all participants on the tour use the lotions before they depart the Animal Unit after the tour is completed. The purpose of this practice is to demonstrate appropriate personal hygiene following contact with animals and to decrease the probability of visitors contracting diseases through being contaminated by organisms such as Salmonella and E. coli.

- Defined traffic patterns should be established by the Supervisor or Manager of the Animal Units for all visitors to facilities. These traffic patterns should be designed to decrease the probability of a visitor transmitting diseases to the animals in the unit and decrease the probability of visitors contracting diseases from organisms that might inhabit the unit.
- For pre-arranged tours, contact the group prior to the visit and indicate rules on foreign travel, etc. (e.g., no travel outside of United States within 5 days prior to the visit).
- Unannounced visitors must report to the Manager of the Animal Unit to be interviewed concerning recent contact with other animals, foreign travel, contact with foreign travelers, food items, etc.
- Only employees of the unit should bring food items onto the University Animal Unit and consideration should always be given to proper hygienic practices when food items are being consumed. These guidelines are in place to: 1) decrease the probability of bringing disease agents onto the unit in food items, 2) encourage good hygiene and prevention of human infection by agents (e.g. Salmonella, E. coli) that may be on the unit.
- Do not allow other animals to come into University Animal Units without quarantine of the animals from the remainder of the herd or flock so as to reduce the probability of these animals being a biosecurity risk. All animals that are being introduced shall follow the prescribed quarantine guidelines. When there is absolute necessity to introduce animals from outside sources into University herds or flocks or into University Animal Units without following the quarantine guidelines, written permission from the supervising administrator or administrator's designee will have to be obtained for this purpose.
- The United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS) regulates the importation of animals and animal products to prevent the introduction of foreign animal diseases. None-the-less, many food products containing animal matter are smuggled or mailed into the United States without the knowledge or approval of the USDA. Unless the food products have come through approved commercial channels, under no circumstances should these foods or products be brought into University Animal Units or should animals be exposed to these materials.
- Semen and ova that have been harvested for propagation of food animals should only be used if the semen and ova have been harvested, processed, and stored by genetics companies certified by their respective industries for meeting disease control-standards such that the semen and ova do not pose a disease risk.
- Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Animal Caretakers will be developed and will be forth coming. These SOPs will be developed so that Animal Caretakers will be more surveillant of biosecurity processes and with procedures that decrease the probability of zoonotic disease transmission.

Public visitation to the animal units can, therefore, be resumed but only if the described biosecurity procedures are closely adhered to.