DAIRY FARM BIOSECURITY DURING COVID-19

23 March 2020

Dairy farm biosecurity is more important now than ever for protecting your farm and the broader community from the spread of COVID-19. Dairy Australia recommends that farm businesses enact their biosecurity plan specifically around farm visitors and staff hygiene.

Farm visitors

Farm visitors may be unintentionally carrying COVID-19 without even being aware of their infection status. This means anyone visiting your property including:

- Staff
- Milk tanker operators
- Vets
- AI technicians
- Herd testing staff
- Grain truck drivers
- Stock agents, consultants
- Itinerant workers
- Researchers
- Contractors
- Guests and anyone who lives on the property.

Specific biosecurity considerations for COVID-19

To limit the spread of COVID-19 on or off your farm:
1. Have a biosecurity plan and ensure all requirements are clearly communicated to staff and visitors.
2. Practice social distancing by ensuring everyone is at least 1.5m apart wherever possible. More information on practicing social distancing during milking can be found in the ***Social distancing during milking factsheet***, available at **dairyaustralia.com.au/c19.**
3. Ensure handwashing and hand sanitisation facilities are available for all visitors and staff.
4. Ensure all visitors and staff practice appropriate coughing and sneezing etiquette (into a tissue or elbow).
5. Wear gloves during, and wash and disinfect hands before and after handling livestock.
6. Limit staff contact with visitors (including milk tanker operator) as much as possible – maintain social distancing.
7. Regularly sanitise shared touch points (e.g. vat control pad, vat connection points, vat outlet taps as well as hose taps, vat lid, sight glass, agitator switch, ladder rails, light switch, door handles etc) with an appropriate disinfectant.
8. Ensure all your staff are familiar with the basic symptoms associated COVID-19 and know how to report them.

Visitors:
1. Use signs to inform visitors of your biosecurity status and what you require from them. Never assume that visitors know the appropriate biosecurity measures for your property.
2. Keep a visitor register so you know who has entered your farm. Check that visitors have not returned from overseas within the past 14 days.

3. Limit entry points to one access point so that all movements can be recorded, and you always know who is on your property.
4. Direct all visitors to a designated parking area and ask them to report to farm management and sign the visitor register.
5. All visitors to the property must ensure that their vehicles, equipment, boots and clothing are clean.

Useful links

To purchase farm biosecurity signs

https://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/product/farm-biosecurity-gate-sign/

To refresh your biosecurity plan

http://biosecurity.dairyaustralia.com.au/login

For more information on dairy farm biosecurity

https://www.dairyaustralia.com.au/farm/animal-management/animal-health/dairy-biosecurity

Visitor/staff risk assessment templates

https://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/toolkit/records/

Visitor register template

https://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/toolkit/records/

For further information, find the Dairy Industry COVID-19 Directory at **dairyaustralia.com.au/c19**, or email us at **c19@dairyaustralia.com.au**