

Antibiotic reduction through farm biosecurity measures

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Livestock infectious diseases cost UK agriculture up to £600m each year through decreased performance, treatment costs and death loss. The majority of losses can be avoided by implementing good farm biosecurity plan.



Why is biosecurity important?

- Reduces veterinary drug use thus decreased cost of treatment.
- Increased sales potential and quality assurance.
- Improved animal welfare.
- Increased productivity and profitability.

Spread of infectious diseases

Infectious diseases can spread within and between farms through a number of means:

- Introduction of diseased animals.
- Introduction carriers animals.
- Vehicles, equipment, clothing and footwear - vets, contractors etc.
- Feedstuffs, especially high risk feedstuff which could be contaminated with faeces.
- Manure handling and aerosolized manure and dust.
- Dogs, cats, wildlife, rodents, birds and insects.
- Impure/polluted water

Biosecurity principles

There are four biosecurity principles which if implemented effectively will curb the introduction and spread of infectious diseases

1. **Selection** – select all necessary purchased animals from known sources and/or health status to reduce the risk of infection
2. **Isolation** -strict isolation prevents contact between groups of animals after arrival on farm and reduces the risk of spread of infectious agents.
3. **Movement control** - includes all vehicles, animals, and people traffic that could introduce infection onto your operation.
4. **Sanitation** - the disinfection of materials, people and equipment entering the farm and the cleanliness of the people and equipment on the farm.

Selection of purchased animals

- Know the health history, health status, vaccination.

- Limit purchases to ewe lambs and gimmers, not older sheep.

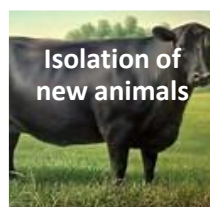
Movement control

- Minimise on movement of people, vehicles or equipment into areas where sheep and beef cattle are kept.
- Keep a record of visitors to your farm.

Sanitation

- Use different equipment to feed and to clean pens or completely clean between use.
- Routinely clean and disinfect feeding equipment and sheep handling/shearing/foot trimming equipment.
- Transport sheep in clean vehicles, preferably your own.
- Loading area is located at the perimeter of the farm.
- Collection of fallen stock is located at the perimeter of the farm.

Biosecurity principles



Having a biosecurity plan in place will help prevent disease transmission, protect the animals and people on the farm, reduce antibiotic usage and improve profitability.

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