

Biosecurity for Youth Livestock Exhibitors

Stephanie Etter University of Idaho Canyon County Extension Educator

Cindy Kinder, University of Idaho Camas/Gooding County Extension Educator

What is Biosecurity and why is it important to me?

In the context of livestock production, biosecurity refers to those measures taken to keep disease out of populations, herd, or groups of animals where they do not already exist. The responsibility for herd level biosecurity usually rests with the herd owner or management team.

What are some practical ways I can reduce the risk of introducing new diseases in my animals?

- Keep animals returning home from weigh-ins, summer shows, or fair isolated from the main herd for a minimum of two weeks. During that time WATCH them for any signs of illness. If they are incubating a disease or something was present that you weren't aware of, you may detect it before your other animals are exposed.
- Don't share equipment with other exhibitors. Disinfect all equipment, such as buckets, shovels, wheelbarrows, manure baskets, lead ropes, show box and so forth before coming to the fair and after returning home.
- Keep unused equipment and feed in a bag or covered to reduce the risk of contamination.
- Minimize stress by keeping animals cool, providing water, well bedded and comfortable.