



BIOSECURITY PLAN FOR CATTLE, SHEEP AND GOATS EXHIBITED AT A SHOW, EXPO OR EVENT

Dr Danie Odendaal, consulting veterinarian

INTRODUCTION

Biosecurity is a comprehensive concept, the basis of which is discussed in the attached documents: *What is a biosecurity plan and Prevention of diseases through vaccination.*

Following discussions with various show organisers, it was confirmed that most do have a basic biosecurity plan in place which consist of three components:

1. Cattle coming to the show must be tested for and free from bovine brucellosis. They must have been tested in the last 12 months.
2. Cattle coming to the show must be tested for and free from bovine tuberculosis. They must have been tested in the last 24 months.
3. Cattle and other livestock must be accompanied by a veterinarian health certificate stating that they are free of any obvious signs of disease. Such an examination must be completed by a vet confirming his or her involvement with the stud through an annual health programme that is revised once a year. The health certificate should not be older than 28 days in cases where Foot and Mouth disease are active in the area.

Over the years many shows have been presented based on the biosecurity plans currently in place, without major problems due to disease outbreaks having been directly correlated with animals brought from different farms.

Admittedly there has not been a lot of biosecurity awareness in the past and consequently problems that might have arisen were also not reported. Animals brought to a show mainly come from stud herds where good management is applied because of the high value of the animals. Therefore disease prevention measures are also usually of a higher standard.

Many of the exhibitors also sell live animals for breeding purposes, which serves as a further incentive to have good disease prevention measures in place on the farm where the animals are bred. These herds are tested as a standard procedure for brucellosis, tuberculosis and sexually transmitted diseases such as trigomonosis and vibriosis. Only herds that are free of these diseases can offer breeding animals for sale.

This biosecurity plan utilises existing biosecurity plans, combined with proposed changes in a bid to reduce the risk of foot-and-mouth disease while there is an active outbreak, or during the 12 months following the conclusion of a foot-and-mouth disease outbreak (see attached document with an overview of foot-and-mouth disease).

This plan is a basic but practical biosecurity plan. THE PURPOSE IS TO REDUCE RISKS AS FAR AS POSSIBLE. Developing a fully comprehensive plan that excludes all risks, will take much longer than is currently possible and in many cases will not be practicable.



BIOSECURITY PLAN

The biosecurity plan is simple and can be practised by all exhibitors or breeders.

1. All cattle must be tested and free from bovine brucellosis.
2. All cattle must be tested and free of bovine tuberculosis.
3. All bulls offered for sale during a show, expo or event, must be tested and free of sexually transmitted diseases.
4. All animals should be treated and free from external parasites, specifically signs of sheep scab.
5. All animals must be treated and free from internal parasites.
6. All animals must undergo a quarantine period of at least 28 days at their place of origin before they can join the show, in order to eliminate the risk of foot-and-mouth disease. If the animals attend a following show or expo in a period shorter than 28 days, the daily foot-and-mouth observation process should be continued and documented until the next show or expo. These observations, together with the 28 days of the previous show, must be submitted. See the guideline for basic daily observations attached.
7. All animals must be examined by a veterinarian and be free of any visible signs of disease.

MORE ABOUT EACH SUBSECTION OF THE BIOSECURITY PLAN

1. All cattle must be tested and free of bovine brucellosis

There are many basic, but more important adjustments to be made to a biosecurity regime to prevent possible transmission of beef brucellosis which **presents a very high risk due to its very high prevalence throughout the country.**

Animals coming to the show must come from **a herd that has tested clean of bovine brucellosis** (test date within the last 12 months prior to the show).

Because the disease is a herd-related disease, and the herd does not necessarily exhibit obvious signs of disease (with the exception of abortions in pregnant cows), the herd must be tested and free of the disease to eliminate the risk as far as possible.

In a herd where carrier animals (positive herd) are present, it is still possible to transmit the disease. This is due to the long period involved in the development of the disease. Individual animals that have already been infected, may not test positive if they were recently infected.

Hence the animals that are taken to the show must test negative but must also come from a negative herd where all the heifers were tested after their first calving.

2. All cattle must be tested and free of bovine tuberculosis

These basic but important adjustments must also be made with regard to biosecurity so as to prevent possible transmission of bovine tuberculosis. Although there are currently fewer cases of bovine tuberculosis, **the risk of transmission should be eliminated as there is no preventive vaccination or treatment of sick animals available.**

Animals taken to the show must come from **a herd that has tested clean of cattle tuberculosis** (herd test date within the last 24 months).

Because bovine tuberculosis is also a herd-related disease and there are no obvious signs of disease (with the exception of animals experiencing the end stages of the disease), the herd must be tested and free of the disease to eliminate the risk as far as possible .

In a herd with carriers (positive herd), the disease can still be transmitted. This is due to the long period of disease development. Individual animals that have already been infected may not test positive if they have been infected very recently.

The animals taken to the show should have been tested within the last twelve months and test negative, but they must also come from a negative herd in which all the cattle were tested (within the last 24 months).



3. Bulls presented at auctions during a show, expo or event must be tested for and free of STDs.

Because there is a risk that sexually transmitted diseases can be transferred to herds when purchased at an auction, this test is included in the new biosecurity plan.

The two diseases to be tested are trichomonosis and vibriosis. Both tests are performed through sheath washes or sheath scrapes.

This is also a herd-related disease and all bulls must be tested for the diseases regularly. Owners of bulls presented at an auction or during a show, expo or event must present proof of testing.

4. All animals must be treated against and free of visible external parasites

There is a **high risk** of external parasites transmission where animals are shown or exhibited. External parasites can easily be transferred from one animal to the next when in close contact.

Ticks therefore pose a further risk because they can transmit tickborne diseases from one animal to another. To prevent this, animals must be free of all external parasites when shown or exhibited.

They must therefore be treated and rid of external parasites before being transported to the show. Specific attention and indemnity apply to sheep scab.

5. All animals must be treated against internal parasites

There is a **lower risk** of internal parasites being transmitted when animals are shown or exhibited. In most cases no direct transfer can take place from one animal to the next if they don't share a pasture. To reduce the risk, animals must be free of all internal parasites when shown or exhibited. Livestock should be observed closely for 28 days prior to the show.

6. Livestock coming from areas where Foot and Mouth disease are active, should be **quarantined** for a minimum period of 28 days. Animals that don't come from areas known for Foot and Mouth disease, should just be **monitored** for 28 days.

The best way to eliminate the risk of foot-and-mouth disease is to ensure as far as possible that infected animals are not brought to the show.

Unlike in the case of bovine tuberculosis and bovine brucellosis, there is no cost-effective test that can be performed to determine whether the animal is free of the disease. There is a test that identifies animals that are already showing signs of disease or animals that have recovered or been exposed, but this is performed at great cost by the state in the event of an outbreak.

- The only practical method to reduce risk is the quarantine measure that can be followed to keep the group of animals going to the show in isolation for at least 28 days at their place of origin.
- Seclusion means that they cannot come into contact with any other animals on the farm that are newly introduced during the 28-day period. They can still be part of the existing herd.
- The person responsible for the care of the animals must then, on a daily and structured basis, observe all the animals that will go to the show, using the daily observation chart and the specific description of the disease signs that indicate a foot-and-mouth disease infection.
- Any signs of illness must be noted, and signs should be confirmed daily in respect of all the animals comprising the show group, as well as any other animals that are in contact with them. To confirm this, the responsible person must sign the record keeping form every day.
- Because the developmental period of the disease is short (maximum 14 days), any animal possibly infected with the foot-and-mouth disease virus, will show signs of disease during that period.
- In the event that an animal exhibits disease signs that correspond to the given list of foot-and-mouth disease signs, the veterinarian should be asked to examine the animal. This will include taking samples to confirm or discount foot-and-mouth disease.



Animals can only be brought to the show if there were no signs of foot-and-mouth disease in the herd in the preceding 28 days and if they were not put with new cattle during the 28-day quarantine period. The owner of the cattle must confirm this in a statement.

If the animals are taken a following show or expo within a period shorter than 28 days, the daily foot-and-mouth disease observation should be continued and documented until the next show or expo. This observation, together with the 28 days of the previous show, must be submitted.

7. All animals should be examined annually by a veterinarian and be free of any visible signs of diseases.

Livestock coming from areas where any Foot and Mouth disease are active, should be quarantined for a minimum period of 28 days and examined by a vet to confirm that precautions have been followed and that animals have been examined for any diseases prior to attending the show.

The annual investigation by a vet should include:

- Inspecting for any external parasites or infectious skin conditions and recommending treatment options against external parasites.
- Taking manure samples to determine the presence of internal parasites and recommending treatment against internal parasites.
- Completing any of the other required herd tests if not already done.

Animals can only be brought to a show if they have been declared free of visible signs of disease by the veterinarian who examined them. The veterinarian must make a statement confirming this.

The show / expo / exhibition will put the following actions in place:

1. One week before the arrival of the first animals there will be NO animals on the grounds.
2. All facilities involving animals (stables, loading areas, wash areas) will be pre-sprayed with a general animal-safe disinfectant.
3. Continuous cleaning will take place while animals are on the premises, and includes the removal of dirt and hay.
4. At the end of the show, expo or exhibition, ALL dirty hay, bedding and manure will be removed, the areas washed and re-sprayed with a general animal safe disinfectant.

SUMMARY

This is a biosecurity plan that meets the basic requirements for preventing the transmission of major diseases, including foot-and-mouth disease.

It is the showman, breeder, exhibitor and breed society's choice to attend a show, exhibition, gathering or expo within the framework of the regulations contained in the biosecurity plan.

A safe environment is created, as far as possible, for the attendance of or participating in a show, exhibition, gathering or expo and the show, exhibition, gathering or expo is safeguarded of any claims in this regard.