

BIOSECURITY OF DAIRY FARMS



A publication sponsored by the ICSTIAPL project



learning objectives

- Biosecurity and its importance.
- How to implement biosecurity measures?
- The effect of biosecurity measures.

Introduction

What is biosecurity?

Measures to minimise the diseases caused by entrance of pathogenic microorganisms on your farm, and the spread of pathogenic microorganisms over your farm are called 'biosecurity'.



Dutch traffic sign to stop animal traffic during an animal epidemic, like foot and mouth disease or bird flu.

Virus

Pathogenic microorganisms

Which agents can cause diseases?

- Bacteria and rickettsia
- Viruses
- Protozoa
- Fungi
- Worms



Theileria a protozoa causes East Coast



Tongue

Foot and mouth disease is caused by a virus



Mastitis is caused by bacteria

Classification of biosecurity

Biosecurity is about;

Preventing diseases (microorganisms) that enter your farm. This we call external biosecurity.

Preventing diseases (microorganisms) present on your farm that can spread. This we call internal biosecurity.

Definition: Biosecurity are management practices laid to minimize the risk of disease introduction and spread on a farm.



Udder washing
(internal biosecurity)



Disinfecting an entering car
(external biosecurity)

Biosecurity and Infection pressure

Infection pressure indicates the number of pathogenic microorganisms and their ability to infect the animals in a farm. The lower the number of pathogenic microorganisms on your farm, the better it is for the health of your animals.

So, by good biosecurity measures you lower the infection pressure.



The cleaner the udder, the smaller the chances of mastitis



The more the ticks, the higher the chances of tick-borne diseases

External Biosecurity

If you are aware of the ways that pathogenic microorganisms enter your farm, you can take measures to prevent them. Pathogens can enter your farm through cattle you bring to your farm, people visiting your farm, other animals entering your farm like goats, dogs, birds, mice, rats, etc.



Dirty gumboots can carry bacteria



Good fencing can protect you from goats bringing in tick borne diseases



At cattle markets foot and mouth disease can easily spread

Closed farm

One way of improving biosecurity is by establishing a closed farm.

In a closed farm no cattle from outside the farm are brought into the farm.

Dairy cattle will only be replaced by calves born on the farm.



Sires are known to spread venereal diseases like Brucellosis, Trichomonas and Herpes viruses



A gift can be a risk



Quarantine

Incoming cattle at any dairy farm are considered a risk.

They can carry diseases with them without being sick.

Examples are tick borne diseases, Brucellosis and Foot and Mouth Disease.

One way to reduce the risk is by putting the cattle separate from other cattle for a certain period of time for monitoring.

Cattle with possible tick borne disease infection should not be left to graze, to prevent infection of ticks on the farm.

FMD gives the government reason to set quarantine measures



Cattle brought to market in Uganda despite quarantine rules in 2018
Source: Ugandaradionetwork

Not only adult cattle are a risk

Other animals can also transfer diseases to cattle.

Measures to keep other animals away from cattle in general improves biosecurity.

Other than direct contamination; diseases can be contracted from pastures invaded with worms, ticks and nymphs.



Avoid contact with other animals (sheep, goats)!

Chicken will pick and eat ticks.

Swallows will reduce the number of flies on a farm.

Igris will eat flukes and ticks (tick borne diseases).

Diseases transferred from birds to cattle are rare.



Internal biosecurity

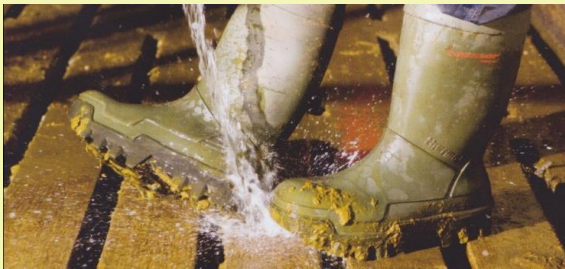
Internal biosecurity focuses on the steps you take to minimize the risk of infectious diseases spreading on your farm.

A lot of these things you already do without being aware of them or linking them to biosecurity.

Clean milk equipment helps to prevent mastitis



Washing your hands helps to reduce spreading viruses and bacteria



Manure contains a lot of bacteria. Cleaning gumboots will prevent spreading them.

Hygiene measures will reduce (spread of) bacteria and viruses. Vaccinations will reduce spread of the infection over the farm.

Quick treatment of diseases will decrease spread of infectious diseases.

Decreasing the number of ticks decreases the risk on tick-borne diseases.

Keeping cattle away from goats and sheep decreases the risk on certain infections

Biosecurity and Tick-borne diseases (TBD)

External measures:

Closed farm
Quarantine incoming animals
Good border fences.

Internal measures:

Regular spraying
Acaricide rotation
Pasture management
Paddocking
Treat sick animals in time
Vaccination

Regular spraying reduces the number of ticks



Removing shrubs decreases the number of ticks



When you spray correct and tick-borne diseases starts to occur, change to another acaricide.



When a paddock is left empty and grass is cut, ticks will eventually die



Vaccination helps to reduce infection pressure



The sooner a cow is treated, the sooner disease spreading stops

Biosecurity and Mastitis

Internal measures:

- Personal hygiene (clothes, hand washing)
- Clean milk place
- Cleaning and massage of the udder
- Good milk technique
- Dipping
- Dry off treatment



Treatment and dry off treatment



All biosecurity around mastitis focuses about keeping bacteria away from the teat ends.

Dipping helps to reduce the spread of bacteria



Muddy soil contains a lot of bacteria

Biosecurity and Foot & Mouth Disease (FMD)

External measures:

- Closed farm
- Quarantine incoming animals
- Good border fences
- Hygiene measures at farm gate

Internal measures:

- Yearly vaccination



Disinfection of cattle truck



Vaccination helps to prevent spreading of the diseases over the farm

Biosecurity and Calving

Maintaining hygiene around calving is important for mother and calf, in order to reduce diseases like endometritis and scours.

Drinking colostrum (first milk) is very important for the calf to increase disease resistance.



Let a cow calf down in a clean environment



Giving colostrum directly after birth is key



Disinfection of the navel helps to protect the calf against infections

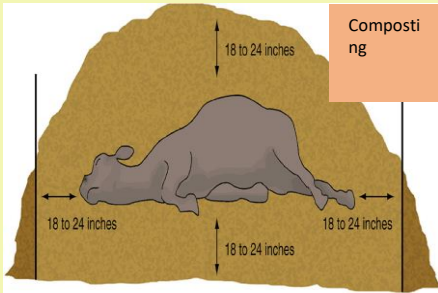
Biosecurity and Dead animals

Dead animals are a potential health hazard. Huge numbers of bacteria can remain and develop in the carcass.

Incineration is the safest way to dispose a carcass.

Burial or even composting is a good alternative.

Diseases like Anthrax and Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) remain a risk after burial.



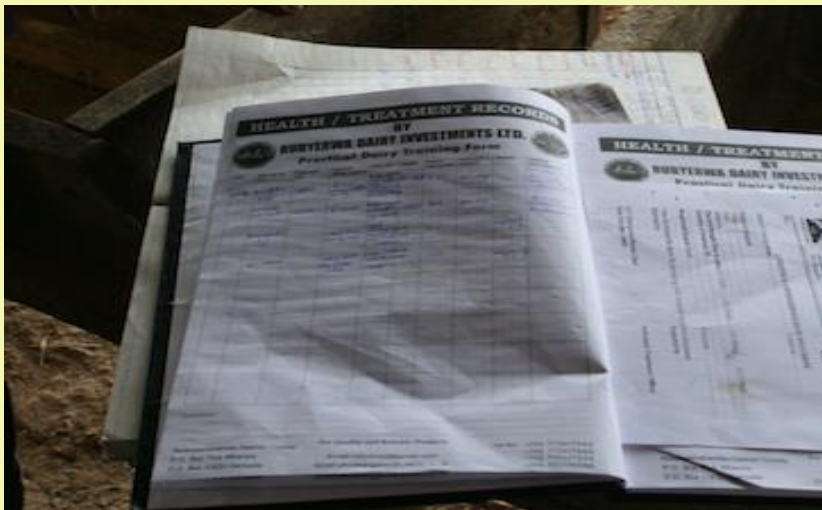
Summary/Take home message

Measuring and recording risks is helpful

The aim of biosecurity measures is to bring down the risk of infectious diseases, with the ultimate goal of reducing cattle diseases.

Biosecurity measures costs labour and money, and therefore should be worthwhile to make/lay.

By recording animal health parameters, you can see if your actions had effect (less sick or dead animals, reduced medicine cost, etc.)



- END -



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
Netherlands

About the ICSIAPL Project

The Integrated & Climate Smart Innovations for Agro-Pastoralist Economies and Landscapes in Kenya's Arid and Semi-arid Lands is (ICSIAPL) is a three-year (2021 -2023) project funded by the European Union (EU) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (DGIS). It is managed through a delegated cooperation with the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (EKN) in Nairobi.

The EU fund is attached to the DeSIRA Initiative (Development Smart Innovation through Research in Agriculture).

The project is implemented by SNV Netherlands Development Organisation, SNV, (lead partner) and the Kenya Agriculture Livestock Research Organization, KALRO (research partner).

