

General Farm Hygiene

Good farm hygiene is the responsibility of all staff on the farm, make sure all employees know the farms bio-security policy and explain the policy to all visitors.

- Draw up a written Bio-Security plan for your holding
- Operate a foot dip policy between farms, buildings and ensure disinfection facilities are available for consultants, veterinary surgeons and other visitors
- Insist that all staff and visitors use the footdips – put up signposts if necessary
- Keep the milking parlour and associated facilities clean and hygienic at all times
- Clean and disinfect buildings after each batch of stock, especially after a disease outbreak
- Clean and disinfect vehicles and trailers after transporting stock – however short the journey
- Wear clean overalls and footwear each day if at all possible
- Park visitors vehicles to avoid contact with livestock – Avoid unnecessary visitors to the holding

Feed Storage Facilities

Poor feed facilities encourage birds and vermin, which can and do spread disease

- Keep feeding stuffs dry and clean
- Rotate stocks to ensure that the oldest deliveries are used first
- Dispose of old or contaminated feed carefully and securely
- Clean out feed bins, water troughs regularly – wash out and disinfect
- Ensure no livestock have access to feed storage facilities
- Use mains water for stock if possible, or ensure borehole or well water is tested and approved for use
- Fence of ponds or boggy areas
- Clean out and disinfect feed troughs and feeding stances on a regular basis, remove rejected feed and dispose of responsibly

Keep Stock Apart

Eliminate contact with neighbouring farms and holdings, using good fences and secure gates.

- Stop nose to nose contact
- Electric fencing can be a cost effective solution
- Double fence on farm boundaries (at least 3 metres apart), where stock are kept on the neighbouring unit
- Where hedges or ditches are broken fence at least 6 feet apart on both sides
- Use barriers in gateways to stop contact with passing cattle
- Check fences on a regular basis and keep all fences in good repair
- Avoid common grazing if at all possible
- Operate a closed herd policy or use strict quarantine procedures in conjunction with your veterinary surgeon
- If buying stock, only buy from known disease free sources
- Check the health and disease status of hired bulls

Isolation Facilities

Ensure you have isolation facilities available, and that these are easy to clean, hygienic and prepared ready in case they are needed.

- Isolate all bought in stock, know the signs of disease and look out for them
- Run these animals through a footbath and worm / vaccinate / treat on arrival if required
- Put isolated animals through milking parlours etc last and disinfect after use
- Isolate sick or diseased animals immediately – notify the veterinary surgeon and MAFF at the first sign or suspicion of any notifiable disease

Waste Management

Disease causing agents can survive in slurry and farm yard manure, ensuring these products are stored in a responsible manner can go some way to preventing disease spread.

- Store manure and slurry for at least 4 months before application if at all possible
- Spread on arable land or forage maize rather than grassland
- Try to spread slurries without spraying (use an inverted spreading plate or injection system)
- Avoid using hired or shared spreaders, or wash down thoroughly and disinfect before using

Vermin & Rodent Control

- Ensure you have adequate rodent control
- Keep animals and birds away from feed stores
- Dispose of all feed waste in a secure and responsible manner
- Keep buildings in good repair so that birds and vermin cannot gain access
- Keep doors and windows shut and secure when not needed for ventilation