

Biosecurity protocol for Intensive Pig and Poultry Farms

This protocol outlines our health and safety procedure for staff when inspecting pig and poultry farms. Its purpose is to maintain biosecurity and avoid disease transmission.

Our Environment Officers will:

- Follow Defra advice when visiting farms, in that they will maintain 3 days (72 hours) withdrawal period from contact with the relevant livestock between inspections (unless a shorter time period is agreed with the farmer). They will not have contact with other livestock farms prior to the visit on the day itself.
- Clarify the following biosecurity arrangements when contacting the farm to arrange a visit:
 - the required days clear between farms;
 - where to meet the farmer/manager;
 - where to park;
 - if wheel washing is necessary; and
 - tell the farmer if they have poultry and clarify the withdrawal period required.
- Follow biosecurity protocol on individual farms by:
 - signing the visitor book to advise on the last farm visited, and confirm they are biosecure;
 - dipping footwear in footbaths;
 - washing hands on arrival;
 - wearing overalls or overshoes, as directed by the farmer;
 - showering if requested, where this facility is provided;
 - provide stool sample results, if requested to be tested for salmonellae;
 - not inspecting if farm staff have flu-like symptoms.
- Endeavour to arrive at the farm in clean clothes and boots.
- Use cameras, when agreed with the farmer, but will not use flash photography inside livestock housing.
- Avoid bringing valuables onto farms, unless absolutely necessary.
- Minimise contact with livestock on the farm.

We will suspend inspections during disease outbreaks in specified areas, following the advice of Animal Health.

Exceptions to the above may occur where an Environment officer:

- Is responding to a reported pollution incident (potential oil or chemical spills, complaint etc) as it may not be possible to achieve the required withdrawal period.
- Is inspecting farms belonging to the same company, or operator, over a period of days, inspections will be undertaken in the order recommended by the company and shorter withdrawal periods will apply.
- Feels their safety is compromised by the farmer's request.
- Needs to use a camera if investigating a pollution incident.
- Is requested for longer than 3 days clear (we should be sent a copy of the farm/company policy and scientific evidence to support the request - this will be checked by a Defra vet).

Farmers will:

- Not expect our staff to follow any biosecurity measures that their own do not follow.
- Provide clothing for our staff that is appropriate for the wearer, for example boots and over clothes.
- Ensure that where showers are provided, they are clean with a changing area that is lockable and secure.
- Provide clean towels and shower gel.
- Ensure shower areas are not overlooked.
- Ensure showers are dedicated to farm staff or visitors and not shared with personal accommodation.

Biosecurity protocol May 2008
Environment Agency Agriculture Technical Services

customer service line

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www.environment-agency.gov.uk

incident hotline

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