

Biosecurity

The greatest disease threat to an established herd / flock is the introduction of new animals.

Every farm is different in terms of environment, management and disease status. Therefore a unique action plan should be put in place to minimise the chance of infecting your stock.

Whether purchasing direct from farm or from a livestock market, always ask the vendor about the health status and previous treatments.

When the stock arrives on your farm quarantine on arrival. This allows time to determine the health status, and to monitor and carry out any necessary prophylactic treatment.



Quarantine

- 1) Ensure the quarantine area has a separate air space, feeding and drinking facilities from existing stock and that there is no direct 'over fence' contact.
- 2) Always work with quarantined animals after all other stock. Wear different protective clothing and disinfect before and after entering and leaving the quarantine area.



Top 10 herd and flock health tips

1. Increase biosecurity - don't buy in disease
2. Monitor your health status
3. Improve health status by culling infected animals
4. Control diseases that can not be eradicated. Vaccination polices will save many times their cost
5. Have treatment protocols in place for diseases that cannot be completely prevented
6. Use management practices to improve health
7. Improve the environment to reduce disease risk, e.g. better building ventilation
8. Record reproductive performance
9. Record all procedures carried out
10. Form a team approach to reduce disease costs through farm health planning - involving farmer, staff, vets and other advisers.



Conclusion

- Ask the vendor questions
- Know what you are buying
- Assess and respond to the risks posed by, and to, purchased animals
- Quarantine purchased animals for a minimum of 21 days
- During isolation, watch closely for signs of disease. If anything looks suspicious investigate fully.

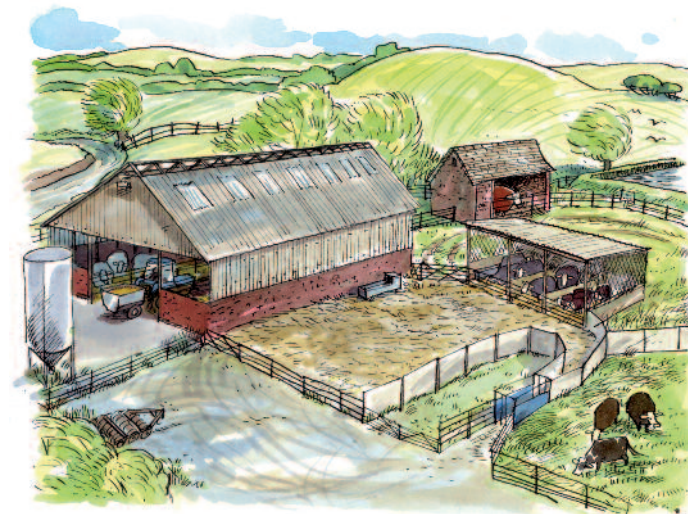


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Better Returns from Checking Purchased Stock



Before

- Check
 - What vaccinations have been given?
 - The condition of the stock
 - The visual health of the animals.

After

- Implement adequate biosecurity measures as soon as you get stock home.

What is YOUR herd or flock health status?

- Do you have problems with certain diseases on your farm?
- Do you vaccinate for specific problems?
- Does your stock have contact with other peoples' animals?
- Do you share equipment with other producers? Is it thoroughly disinfected between farms?
- Do you loan bulls or rams?



Golden Rules

For purchasers

- Develop a health plan with your veterinary surgeon
- As far as possible purchase from a known disease status herd or flock
- Know what questions to ask the prospective vendors
- Apply these principles to ALL purchased livestock.

For vendors

- Develop a health plan with your veterinary surgeon
- Provide evidence of whether or not the important diseases have occurred on your farm.

What you need to do

1. Record name and address of the vendor. If possible record the vendor's vets' details
2. Quarantine brought-in or returning stock for a minimum of 21 days. (Enough time for tests and vaccinations to take place. This may be longer, especially if TB is an issue).
3. Involve your vet, and carry out tests where necessary
4. Vaccinate when appropriate
5. Treat any problems which are identified.

Cattle - diseases to consider

• Bovine Tuberculosis (TB)

What is the herd of origin testing interval? Have they had any reactors or confirmed cases?

• Pneumonia

Has the herd of origin had previous problems with pneumonia?

• Parasites (gutworms, lungworms, liverfluke, lice and mites)

When were the cattle last treated? With what product?

• Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD)

What is your herd status? What is the status of the vendor's herd? Cheap, reliable tests are available to identify infected animals, so they can be culled to minimise damage and loss, and to prevent buying in this disease.

• Johnes disease

Is your herd clear? If yes, test faeces for culture or PCR whilst animal is in quarantine. Difficult to control as it has a long incubation period, infection is normally passed on before clinical symptoms are shown.

• IBR

Is the herd of origin IBR free? Has it been vaccinated and if so which vaccine? Test and isolate until IBR antibody status is known. Do not introduce vaccinated animals into an IBR-free herd.

• Bluetongue

Establish if vaccination has been given and previous risk of exposure to the virus. Vaccination is cheap and would more than prove its worth if an outbreak occurred.

• Abortion

Has the herd of origin had previous problems? Strict biosecurity is important to reduce the risk. Vaccinations are available. Antibody tests are available to check status.

• Leptospirosis

Is the herd of origin certified free from disease or vaccinated?

• Clostridial Disease

Have vaccinations has been given? If your herd is vaccinated and brought in animals are not, they will need to be protected.



Sheep - diseases to consider

• **Abortion** - Three main types have to be considered. Has there been history of abortion in the flock of origin? If so, was it investigated? What type was it?

Were the sheep vaccinated?

- Enzootic abortion (can be transmitted to humans)
- Toxoplasma, a protozoal parasite spread via cats
- Campylobacter, a bacterial infection spread by birds, feed and infected sheep

• **Scab** - Parasitic skin disease which is very infectious. Does the flock of origin have shared or common grazing? When was the last treatment against scab and what with? Is there evidence of skin lesions?

• **Worming** - Follow SCOPS guidelines. Has the origin farm had problems with anthelmintic resistance? If so, which groups of product?

When were they last wormed? With what product?

• Fluke

When were they last dosed and with what product?

• Bluetongue

Establish if vaccination has been given and previous risks of exposure to the virus. Vaccination is cheap and would more than prove its worth if an outbreak occurred.

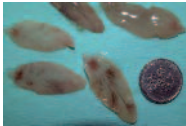
• Orf - Viral skin infection, can lead to mastitis

Ask about past orf problems including clinical cases. Do they vaccinate? If your flock is clear you could bring it in with vaccinated stock. Can be transmitted to human.

• Scrapie

Has there been cases in the flock of origin in the past three years? Are the sheep scrapie genotyped?

• **Maedi Visna** - Viral infection causes wasting of sheep. Is there evidence of disease in the flock of origin? Are the ewes maedi accredited?



Consider specific treatment to prevent introducing footrot and resistant worms to your farm