

BIOSECURITY GUIDANCE TO SUPPORT RAW MILK MOVEMENT TO PROCESSING DURING A FOOT-AND-MOUTH (FMD) OUTBREAK



Introduction

Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) is a highly contagious viral disease of cattle and other cloven-hooved animals such as pigs, sheep, and goats. FMD does not affect humans. During a U.S. FMD outbreak, dairy operations in and around the Control Area will be impacted by movement restrictions designed to contain the disease and minimize virus spread. Given the just-in-time supply of milk and limited storage capacity on farm, permitted raw milk movement from uninfected farms to processing is a goal of the Secure Milk Supply (SMS) Plan.

Establishing Biosecurity Guidance

Industry, academia, state and federal government personnel are developing pre-event, agreed upon national biosecurity performance standards for dairy premises, milk haulers, and processing plants to implement during an FMD outbreak. Compliance with these performance standards is intended to reduce the chance of spreading FMD and increase the chance of timely permitting of raw milk from uninfected dairy premises to processing where it can be pasteurized for consumers.

What is a “Biosecurity Performance Standard”?

Biosecurity Performance Standards, as developed under the SMS Plan, establish expectations to prevent FMD spread. They are the overarching goal by which to develop more specific protocols or procedures. The performance standards and some corresponding general protocols are being developed by members of the various SMS Plan Working Groups. They are designed to be objective, realistic, verifiable, and clearly stated pre-event.

How Will Specific Protocols/Procedures for Each Performance Standard be Developed?

Once the Performance Standards are established and agreed upon on a national level, dairy industry partners are encouraged to engage their State Animal Health Officials to develop pre-event, agreed upon specific procedures that meet each performance standard. Given the diverse nature of the dairy industry with variations in farm size, distance to processing plants, climatic differences, and local regulations, there will be more than one way to effectively accomplish the same performance standard. Local knowledge and resources are essential in emergency response planning. The SMS Plan partners recognize that customized, reasonable, and attainable operational procedures to meet each performance standard are best developed at the local level.

Verification of the specific protocols and procedures will be carried out by the permitting authority in each state and will be based on how effectively each performance standard, and thus specific protocol or procedure, is being met. This again emphasizes the need for local response planning to be developed pre-event.

Initial Goals

- Develop performance standards to prevent FMD virus entry or spread on dairy farms, via milk tankers, and at processing plants to move raw milk from farm to processing
- Provide attainable general solutions to achieve each performance standard
- Recognize that the implementation and verification of biosecurity performance standards are going to impact the speed of product movement

SMS Plan Working Groups (WG)

If you would like to participate in the establishment of the biosecurity performance standards, contact the applicable Chairperson(s) listed below. We look forward to your input.

1. **Premises Biosecurity WG** – Danelle Bickett-Weddle, Iowa State University dbweddle@iastate.edu
2. **Milk Hauler/Transport Biosecurity WG** – Danelle Bickett-Weddle, Iowa State University dbweddle@iastate.edu or Tim Goldsmith, University of Minnesota gold0188@umn.edu
3. **Milk Processing Biosecurity WG** – Pam Hullinger, University of California-Davis phullinger@ucdavis.edu