

Resources and Recommendations for Cattle Operation Visitors

Visitors to cattle operations have an excellent opportunity to expand their knowledge of the beef industry. However, visitors come from diverse backgrounds, which may or may not mean a higher risk factor for operations being toured.



Image credit: Beef Farmers of Ontario

Recommendations for Visitors

Before the Tour

Before visitors attend the tour, they should have a basic understanding of biosecurity and the need for biosecurity planning to maintain human and herd health.

Requirements

Understand the relationship between biosecurity, human health and herd health by reviewing all biosecurity resources provided by the tour host and asking clarifying questions if needed. Resources provided by the tour host may include:

- [Tour Smart: Beneficial Practices for Beef Operation Tours \(Appendix D\)](#) and [Going on a Farm Tour? \(Appendix E\)](#).
- Hand-washing awareness [posters, infographics](#) and [other guidance](#).
- [Biosecurity resources and videos](#) for international visitors.
- Resources to determine visitors level of risk including the [Biosecurity Risks from Visitors \(p.5\)](#) table and [Farm Visitor Level of Risk Decision Tree \(Appendix H\)](#).

Recommendations

Prepare for the tour by cleaning and disinfecting shoes and washing clothes according to the [Cleaning and Disinfection Guidelines for Visitors to a Cattle Operation](#).

If required by the host organization, complete the [Farm Visitor Survey \(Appendix G\)](#).

Cleaning and Disinfection Guidelines for Visitors to a Cattle Operation

Step 1 (Dry Cleaning): Physically remove organic matter from clothes (jeans, coveralls or jackets), [footwear \(boots\)](#) and any equipment (phone or camera).

Step 2 (Wet Cleaning): Apply a detergent (such as dish soap) with water and scrub to mechanically and chemically break down or wash away bacteria and organic material. Professional dry cleaning is also a suitable option.

- **Clothing:** Prior to putting clothes in a washing machine, scrub any areas with detergent and water where previous dirt or organic matter may have soaked into the fabric. Wash with hot water and clothes washing detergent.
- **[Boots and Equipment](#):** Use a scrub brush and scrub the entire boot ensuring that no material is left in the grooves of the sole.

Step 3 (Drying): *All surfaces must be completely dry.*

- **Clothing:** Can be placed in a clothes dryer on high heat.
- **[Boots and Equipment](#):** Air dry, preferably in the sun.

Step 4 (Disinfection): [Apply a disinfectant product](#) for an appropriate amount of contact time.

- **General Visitors (have not previously visited a livestock operation):** Hypochlorite 0.01-5% (bleach) is easily obtainable for general visitors. Read the bleach label to determine the correct contact time, but 10 minutes is a good guideline for most bleach.
- **Visitors who have previously visited a livestock operation:** Hypochlorite 0.01-5% (bleach) can be used, but a 0.2 - 3% oxidizing agent (Virkon, Hydrogen Peroxide, Peracetic acid, Oxy-Sept, Rescue or Prevail) is preferable. Each oxidizing agent may have a unique contact time.

Recommendations for Visitors

During the Tour

Visitors should enjoy the tour, following precautions and protocols that maintain biosecurity on the operation including putting on and taking off PPE appropriately and avoiding areas not suitable for the tour as directed by the host organization or producers.

Requirements

Follow guidance from the host organization and producers responsible for the operation regarding biosecurity protocols.

Ask questions if unsure of proper biosecurity procedures on the operation.

Avoid areas that are not suitable for the tour due to higher biosecurity risks.

Recommendations

Minimize contact with livestock by avoiding touching animals unless necessary.

Avoid walking on feed, touching water sources and walking through areas with accumulated manure such as pens, alleys and tubs.

Recommendations for Visitors

After the Tour

Following a farm tour, all visitors should thoroughly clean and disinfect their clothing, footwear and equipment and monitor their health for any changes. Visitors returning to a livestock operation should consider avoiding contact with livestock for a period of time after the tour. Those visitors travelling internationally after a tour should adhere to regulations required by the destination country in addition to general visitor guidelines.

General Visitor Guidelines After the Tour

Requirements

Clean and disinfect clothing, footwear and any equipment used or brought on the tour.

Monitor personal health for any changes and inform medical professionals of the recent farm visit if medical attention is needed after the tour.

- If deemed necessary by medical professionals, inform the host organization of the illness.

Recommendations

Provide feedback to the host organization on improvements that could be made to biosecurity information and resources provided prior to and during the tour.

Visitors Returning to a Livestock Operation

Recommendations

Avoid direct livestock contact following the tour.

- If direct livestock contact is necessary immediately following the tour, ensure that clothes, footwear and equipment have been cleaned and disinfected thoroughly.

Visitors Returning to a Different Country

Recommendations

Avoid livestock contact for a minimum of five days but preferably 14 days after the tour.

Declare all farm visits at border crossings.

- Declaration of farm visits is required by most countries including the United States, Australia, New Zealand and Japan.

Follow all guidelines of the destination country upon return, which may require additional cleaning and disinfection of clothing, boots and equipment or avoiding areas with livestock for a legally designated period of time.

Declare all food products being taken into the destination country.

Appendix D

Tour Smart: Beneficial Practices for Beef Operation Tours

Visit <https://www.beefresearch.ca/tour-biosecurity> to download this resource page as a PDF.

TOUR SMART: BENEFICIAL PRACTICES FOR BEEF OPERATION TOURS

Why is Biosecurity Important on Farm Tours?

Farm tours are excellent learning opportunities commonly utilized in the beef industry. To protect the national cattle industry and individual herds, following biosecurity practices is essential.

Before the Tour

- Review all biosecurity resources provided by the host organization.
- Choose clothing that is clean and has not been worn around livestock previously. **Properly clean and disinfect** any clothing or footwear previously worn around livestock.
- If required, complete a farm visitor survey provided by the host organization.

During the Tour

- Avoid contact with livestock unless necessary.
- Leave unnecessary items on the bus.
- Leave any out-of-country food at home.
- Ask questions and have fun!

After the Tour



General Visitors

- Clean and disinfect clothing, footwear and any equipment used on the tour.
- Monitor your personal health following the tour.



International Visitors

- Avoid livestock contact for 14 days.
- Declare farm visits at any border crossings.
- Follow the destination country's quarantine requirements and entrance guidelines.
- Do not bring food products into the destination country.

Cleaning & Disinfection



Step 1: Dry Removal

- Physically remove organic matter.

Step 2: Wet Cleaning

- Use detergent with water and scrub.
- Items can also be professionally professionally dry cleaned.

Step 3: Drying

- Allow all surfaces to dry completely.

Step 4: Disinfection

- **General:** Use hypochlorite 0.01-5% (bleach) with the recommended contact time.
- **Advanced:** Use an oxidizing agent 0.2-3% with the recommended contact time.

Read the full guide on the [BCRC website](https://www.beefresearch.ca/tour-biosecurity)



Appendix E

Beef Cattle Operation Tours: Recommendations for Visitors

Visit <https://www.beefresearch.ca/tour-biosecurity> to download this resource page as a PDF.

BEEF CATTLE OPERATION TOURS: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR VISITORS

DO



Ask questions!



Wear clothes and footwear that have never been on a livestock operation or have been recently cleaned and disinfected.

SCAN OR CLICK FOR MORE RESOURCES



Boot
washing
guide



Common
disinfectants
table



Review resources provided by the host organization and complete a farm visitor survey, if required.



Follow post-tour guidelines.

DON'T



Bring food products from other countries.



Have contact with livestock unless necessary and part of the tour.



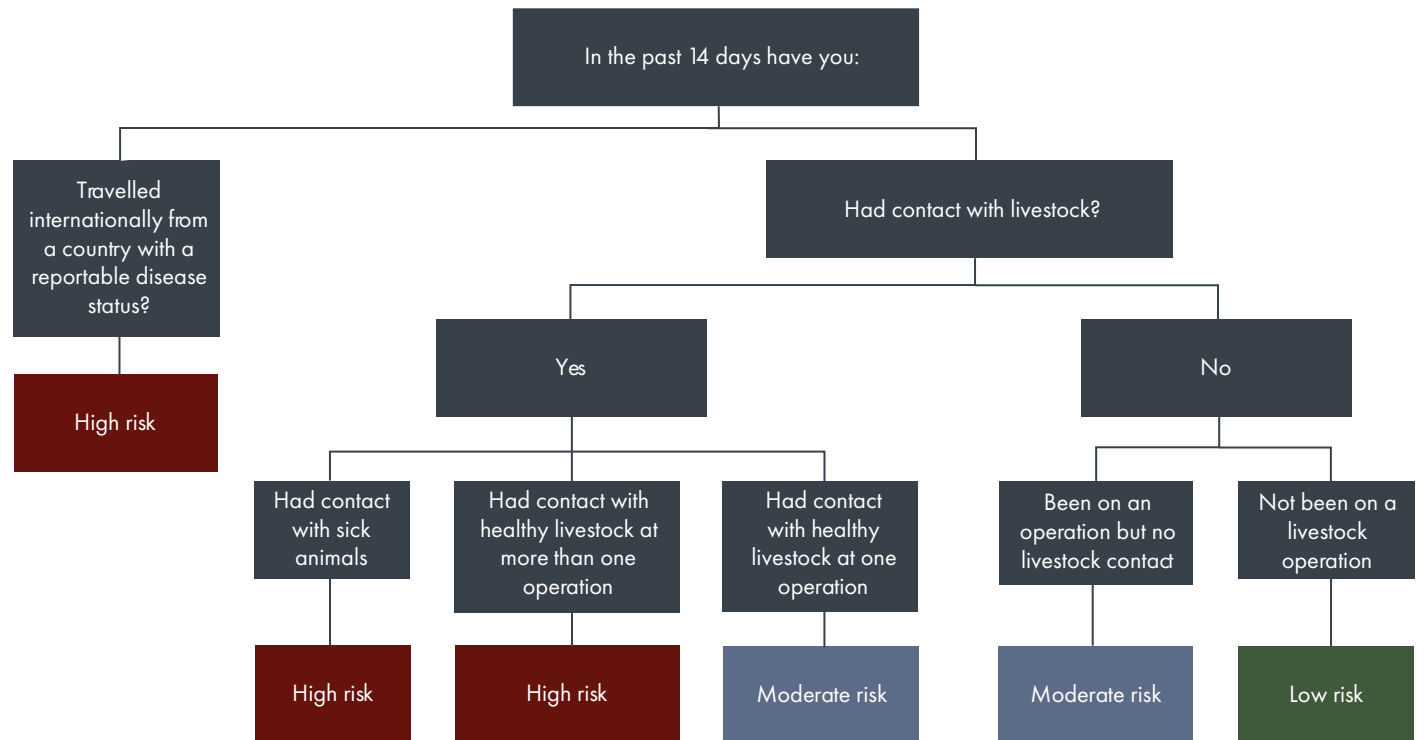
Bring unnecessary items on the tour.

Photo credit: Beef Farmers of Ontario



Appendix H

Farm Visitor Level of Risk Decision Tree



Appendix I

Preparing For Visitors: Biosecurity For Tours of Beef Cattle Operations

Visit <https://www.beefresearch.ca/tour-biosecurity> to download this resource page as a PDF.

PREPARING FOR VISITORS: BIOSECURITY FOR TOURS OF BEEF CATTLE OPERATIONS

A minimum biosecurity standard protocol ensures that farm operation tours remain safe for human and herd health and protect the national cattle industry from foreign animal diseases. Additional protocols may be required for tours that involve higher risks associated with visitors or level of animal contact. Host organizations, producers and visitors should collaborate to determine which protocols are necessary when planning for the tour.

Minimum Biosecurity Protocol

Hosts Will



Provide essential communication and education to visitors about maintaining biosecurity.

Producers Will



Advocate for their operation's biosecurity requirements.

Visitors Will



Arrive in a vehicle with a clean exterior (bus or personal).



Wear recently laundered clothes and clean footwear. If footwear is not clean, boot covers must be used.



Wash hands or use hand sanitizer before and after the tour.



Thoroughly clean clothes and boots after the tour.



International visitors should avoid livestock for 14 days.

Possible Additional Protocols

- Visitors complete a farm visitor survey to assess potential risk factors.
- Restrict visitors from countries with certain reportable disease statuses.
- Plan a tour route with a clear order of tour areas to minimize disease risk.
- Implement any additional protocols to complement the specific tour.

Access more resources:



[BCRC Biosecurity webpage](#)



[Farm Tour Biosecurity Guidelines](#)

