

OII Introduces On-Farm BioSecurity Procedure

<u>September, 2013, Kamloops, BC</u> – the board of directors and staff of Ownership Identification Inc is pleased to report the implementation an on-farm boot sanitization biosecurity practice, referenced as Phase I.

What is Biosecurity?

Biosecurity refers to practices designed to prevent, reduce or eliminate the introduction and incidental spread of disease among livestock and poultry.

For example, disease can easily be carried on boots or clothing contaminated by manure, saliva, respiratory and reproductive discharges. Some diseases are easily carried by farm to farm visitors, while other diseases are only transmitted by animals.

Biosecurity practices minimize the risk of disease by identifying risks and developing intervention measures to minimize disease-causing agents from entering or leaving a premise.

Content of Procedure

This procedure is intended to reduce the risk of introducing diseases to a farm, facility or region where they do not already exist. Intensive livestock operations (feedlots, auction markets, assembly yards and slaughter facilities) are susceptible to disease and therefore will often demand stricter biosecurity protocols.

Boot Sanitization

To avoid mechanical transfer of microorganisms by personnel (manure on boots moved from one operation to the next) boot sanitizing must become a standard practice and is extremely important.

Livestock Producers Role

Develop a herd health plan. Work with a veterinarian. Healthy animals are more productive and less prone to disease. The activities that contribute to the maintenance of herd health play an important role in disease prevention.

Educating staff and visitors about the importance of biosecurity and the practices employed on farm is important to maintaining animal health.

Develop a biosecurity plan that addresses the specific needs of the operation and evaluate it regularly. The plan should document protocol and practices for the following key areas; * sanitization, *incoming animals, *dead stock and manure removal, * initial disease response and high-risk biosecurity, *minimize movement, *use clean trucks and trailers.

These are just a few of the recognized biosecurity practices that producers can use to manage the disease risks on their operation. For more information please contact the OII office or visit www.inspection.gc.ca/biosecurity