

Biosecurity for the Dairy Herd

Jon Parsons BVetMed MRCVS



What is Biosecurity

- Dictionary definition:
 - *the methods that are used to stop a disease or infection from spreading from one person, animal, or place to others:*
- Implication in the Dairy Herd
 - Prevent the risk of entry of disease into the herd from other animals, people or fomites.

Diseases to Consider:

- The Common Five
 - BVD
 - IBR
 - Lepto
 - Neospora
 - Johnes
- TB
- FMDV
- Other diseases – Salmonellosis, Mycoplasma, SBV, digital dermatitis, Campylobacter, Staph aureus
- Fluke, worms

All have different routes of entry and so different biosecurity protocols need to come into place



Main Risks of Entry of Disease

- Animals coming onto farm
 - Bought/escapees/hire
 - Nose to nose contact
 - Waterways
- People coming on to farm
- Vehicles and Equipment coming on to farm
- Wildlife



Bought in Animals

- Provide a major risk of the introduction of many diseases
- Sourcing:
 - High Health Status herds
 - Markets
 - Vet input
- Testing pre purchase
- Isolation (and further testing)
 - Practicalities of isolating a milking cow
 - Cleansed and disinfected
- The Hire Bull – sheath washed?



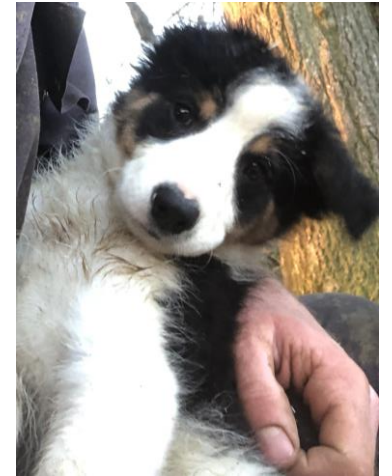
Escapee animals/Neighbour contact

- Generally animals from an unknown disease source
- Potential for mixing with stock (and leaving with no trace)
- Contaminating pasture



People coming onto Farm

- Anyone coming onto farm has the risk of bringing disease with them.
 - Staff – permanent and casual
 - Consultants
 - Sales Reps
 - Footpaths
 - Vets
 - Tanker
- Disinfection points – on entry
- Access to key areas of farm
- Dogs



Fomites/Objects

- Vehicles, Shared machinery, Contractors, Equipment
 - Scope for cleansing and disinfecting and appropriate product



Summary

- Biosecurity encompasses important daily risks for a farm
- Specific biosecurity points should be discussed with a vet and written in a health plan
- Know your disease status and maintain it
- Isolation facilities should always be available
- Closed herds have lower risks of introduction of disease but there are still some risks
- Good biosecurity promotes and maintains a healthy herd

