

Biosecurity Risk Assessment Chart for Visitors

While visitors to a farm or operation are often welcomed or even necessary, every person stepping onto a farm or operation can be a biosecurity risk. The degree of biosecurity risk depends on the person—family friend, neighbor, fellow producer, veterinarian, employee, feed deliver person, extension agent,

foreign guest, etc.— and his or her habits, travels and business.

Upon arriving at the farm or business enterprise, each visitor should check in at the house or office upon arrival and be classified as a low risk (low farm, low animal contact), medium risk (high farm, low animal contact) or high risk (high farm, high

animal contact). The accompanying chart can help you ascertain each visitor's biosecurity risk.

No visitor should be allowed to bring along a dog or other pet and all visitors should be required to wear clean clothing and boots or have disposables or guest clothing and boots available for them onsite.

Activity	Low Risk	Moderate Risk	High Risk
Other farm visits per day.	One farm, little to no animal contact.	Occasionally visits more than one farm/day, minimal animal contact.	Visits many farms or livestock facilities. Much animal contact.
Ownership of similar animals.	Does not own similar species at home.	Similar species at home but different production type.	Owens and/or cares for similar species and production type at home.
Contact with potentially ill or infectious animals.	Minimal or no contact with potentially ill or infectious animals.	Contact with healthy animals but avoids contact with potentially infectious animals.	May own or be exposed to many animals of unknown or poor health status.
Use of protective clothing.	Wears sanitized shoes or boots. One pair of coveralls per site.	Wears sanitized boots and clean coveralls. If clean, may not change coveralls.	Does not wear boots or protective clothing or wears same clothing between farms.
Leaves or borrows supplies, equipment	Supplies and equipment kept away from animals or feed areas.	Supplies and equipment in areas of minimal animal or feed contact.	Supplies and equipment may be left in animal or feed areas.
Work in animal contact areas	Does not work in areas with highly susceptible animals.	Minimal exposure to high-risk animals and only with protective clothing.	Works with highly susceptible animals. Few precautions taken.
Biosecurity knowledge	Understands and promotes biosecurity practices.	Exposed to biosecurity principles but is not an advocate.	Little appreciation for biosecurity principles and does not view it as important to the industry.
Foreign travel	Does not travel outside of the U.S. or Canada.	Limited travel outside the U.S. or Canada, with minimal or no animal contact.	Travel to foreign countries, with animal contact in those countries.
Foreign visitors	Prohibits foreign visitors contact with feed or animals.	Foreign visitors allowed in animal or feed areas following adequate quarantine.	Visitors are permitted in animal or feed areas without screening or quarantine.

(Adapted from Pennsylvania State University Cooperative Extension Bulletin and Mississippi State University Extension Service Bulletin)