



Equine On-Farm Biosecurity Risk Assessment Tool

Biosecurity is about keeping your horse healthy. Principles, actions, precautions and protocols protect the health of animals by preventing the transmission of disease through physical barriers and hygiene practices. Horse owners and custodians must determine the acceptable level of disease risk they are willing to assume for their horse and implement biosecurity measures to reduce risks where possible. Implementing biosecurity practices is an important part in protecting the health of the equine industry. Biosecurity practices should be developed with the assistance of a veterinarian taking into account the owner or custodian’s goals, management practices and the internal and external disease threats.

Awareness and prevention are the keys to keeping your horses healthy.

This self-assessment tool is designed to provide horse owners and stable keepers with a quick and easy way to evaluate the risk of introduction and/or spread of disease on a property based on an evaluation of current biosecurity practices.

There is funding available through the Growing Forward 2 Biosecurity program for implementing on-farm biosecurity projects. To identify the areas on your property that need improvement: (1) complete this on-farm risk assessment tool, (2) identify possible gaps in the ‘risk factor review and action plan’ area, and (3) develop a proposal based on the risk factors and actions.

You may choose to complete this assessment on your own, or you may contract a veterinarian or industry biosecurity consultant to complete the assessment. The Growing Forward 2 Biosecurity Producer program will reimburse the costs of an assessment visit up to \$250.

Questions? Contact AEF at 403-253-4411 or info@albertaequestrian.com

HORSE OWNER / STABLEKEEPER INFORMATION			
Applicant Name (legal or corporate name)			
Primary Contact Person			
Address (City/Province/Postal Code)			
Home Phone Number		Cell Phone Number	
Email		Premises ID #	
TYPE OF OPERATION			
Type of operation (e.g.: breeding, training, show facility, private, etc.)			

HEALTH MANAGEMENT PRACTICES AND AWARENESS					
Do you, or your staff:	YES / ALWAYS	SOMETIMES	NO / NEVER	N/A	Comments / Action Points
	SAFE	WARNING	ALERT		
Regularly monitor and inspect horses for signs of illness (daily where/when possible)?					
Know how to take your horse's vital signs (temperature, pulse and respiratory rate)?					
Know what is considered normal temperature, pulse (heart rate) and respiratory rate?					
Consult your veterinarian each year for current vaccination guidelines specific to your facility?					
Follow veterinarian guidelines on vaccination?					
Require all horses arriving on your premises (haul-ins for clinics/shows/training, etc.) to comply with the vaccination guidelines?					
Follow a veterinarian recommended deworming program? If yes, do you:					
- regularly evaluate the effectiveness of the deworming program through fecal egg counts?					
- require all boarders comply with the deworming program?					
- require that all horses visiting the facility comply with deworming policy?					
Know the clinical signs associated with Equine Infectious Anemia EIA (Swamp Fever)?					
Test new additions to your herd for Equine Infectious Anemia?					
Work with healthy horses before any sick horses are handled/treated?					
Properly use and dispose of all needles?					
Wash your hands, or wear gloves, when handling sick horses?					
Wear designated personal protective equipment (footwear and outerwear) when handling and treating sick horses?					
Use separate equipment or clean and disinfect equipment when working with sick horses?					
Isolate horses that are ill with an infectious disease?					
Have an isolation stall/area for sick horses? If yes, do you:					
- clean and disinfect this stall/pen and equipment used between horses?					
Quarantine and observe horses that may have been exposed to an infectious disease?					

Do you, or your staff:	YES / ALWAYS	SOMETIMES	NO / NEVER	N/A	Comments / Action Points
	SAFE	WARNING	ALERT		
Quarantine new horses in such a way that disease cannot spread to the resident horses?					
Quarantine, or segregate returning horses (horses returning from events, shows, clinics, breeding, etc.) in such a way that disease cannot spread to the resident horses?					
Monitor and take the temperature of horses in quarantine?					
Have a designated stall for foaling that is cleaned and disinfected between births?					
STABLE / FACILITY OWNER					
Have a new horse protocol?					
Require a current veterinary certificate of health for new horses?					
Require all boarders to comply with the vaccine guidelines?					
Require all horses stabled on, or entering your premises to have been tested for Equine Infectious Anemia?					
Quarantine new horses (i.e. no direct contact with other horses or sharing of equipment, etc.)					
Ask where horses have been traveling when they return to the facility? (local, provincial, national, international)					
Ask what type of horse contacts occur on an average trip off the facility? For example pack trips with direct contact and shared feed, etc. OR, no contact					
Have a logbook and require visitors to check in? On average, how many people visit the facility each week?					
RISK FACTOR REVIEW AND ACTION PLAN – SELF ASSESSMENT					
SAFE – meeting basic biosecurity practices WARNING – potential for failure of biosecurity element, action required ALERT – biosecurity gap identified, action required The sections were you marked in the ALERT column requires the most action. Based on the answers you provided, what is your proposed action plan to improve on-farm biosecurity?					

EDUCATE, PLAN, RECORD					
Do you, or your staff:	YES / ALWAYS	SOMETIMES	NO / NEVER	N/A	Comments / Action Points
	SAFE	WARNING	ALERT		
Have a biosecurity plan?					
Have a documented disease contingency plan in place if an infectious disease were to be suspected on your premises? (Call veterinarian, isolate sick horses, no horses to leave the premises, etc.)					
- have you reviewed the plan with everyone who uses the facility?					
Have emergency contact information for veterinarians or clinics in the area?					
Have emergency contact information for the barn owner / manager / trainer?					
Have emergency contact information for all horse owners?					
Have an agreement in place for horses under the care of individuals other than the owner that provides for an immediate response in the event of potential welfare concerns or disease?					
Include isolation protocol in your plan? If yes:					
- does the isolation protocol require that a veterinarian examine sick horses?					
- does your isolation protocol include quarantine protocol?					
Have a health record for each animal? If yes, do you:					
- document medications, vaccines and dewormer given, when and by whom?					
- document all incidences of horse illness?					
Know about regulations regarding the disposal of deadstock and the availability?					
Identify areas/zones of your premises that are closed to public access (closed gates, signage)?					
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HOUSING, FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT					
Do you, or your staff:	YES / ALWAYS	SOMETIMES	NO / NEVER	N/A	Comments / Action Points
	SAFE	WARNING	ALERT		
Ensure all fences and gates are maintained to prevent unplanned <i>commingling</i> of your horses with those from another operation?					
Use non-porous material for stalls and floors (plastic, concrete, rubber mats)?					
Have dedicated tack/equipment for each horse (halter/lead rope, tack, etc.)?					
- if not, do you clean and disinfect tack/equipment between horses?					
Use equipment for a single purpose (e.g. one shovel for manure and another for feeding)?					
Clean and disinfect your horse trailer?					
Clean and disinfect stalls?					
Keep water troughs and waterers in good condition and clean regularly?					
Have measures in place to protect horses from flies and biting insects such as mosquitoes and horseflies (spray program, fly sheet, fly masks, etc.)?					
Store grain and pelleted feed in a sealed bin or other container that does not allow access by other animals, such as birds or rodents?					
Bring your own water bucket and source clean water when travelling with your horse?					
RISK FACTOR REVIEW AND ACTION PLAN – SELF ASSESSMENT					
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THIS RISK ASSESSMENT WAS COMPLETED BY			
<input type="checkbox"/> Horse Owner / Stablekeeper		<input type="checkbox"/> Veterinarian	
<input type="checkbox"/> Industry representative		<input type="checkbox"/> Biosecurity Consultant	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other			
Name		License or registration # (if applicable)	
Phone number		Email	
Signature		Date	

More information related to on-farm equine biosecurity

- Alberta Equestrian Association (www.albertaequestrian.com/biosecurity)
 - Equine Biosecurity Policies and Best Practices Book, email info@albertaequestrian.com to order a print copy
 - Standard Operating Procedures/protocols (SOPs)
 - Equine Health and Vaccination Record
 - Equine Traceability
 - Equine Brochure
- Alberta Veterinary Medical Association (www.abvma.ca/biosecurity)
- Alberta Agriculture and Forestry ([www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/cpv10708](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/cpv10708))
- Equine Guelph – Equine Biosecurity Risk Calculator (www.equineguelph.ca/Tools/biosecurity_2011.php)