



Biosecurity in Canadian Animal Agriculture: Building A Culture Around Disease Prevention



The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) defines biosecurity as *a set of practices used to minimize the transmission of pathogens and pests in animal and plant populations including their introduction (bioexclusion), spread within the populations (biomanagement), and release (biocontainment).*

The desired outcome of biosecurity in animal agriculture is reduction in the frequency, scope, and impact of disease outbreaks. The fundamentals of biosecurity have been practiced in veterinary medicine and by Canadian farmers for many years.

Key Successes & Lessons Learned

The CFIA has developed [National Biosecurity Standards](#) for all animal sectors within Canadian agriculture. Biosecurity projects and programming at all levels has raised awareness of biosecurity, provided tools (knowledge and resources) to producers and support sectors, and established links between primary producers and service providers. The biosecurity standard development process demonstrated collaboration among producers, producer organizations, academia, and government. In addition, these Standards established national biosecurity advisory groups and networks that can

be re-engaged to address new challenges and led to the development of programs for producers and significant provincial-level programming.

Looking Forward

The level of awareness and the degree of biosecurity implementation varies greatly, both within and between commodity groups. Biosecurity communications need to be targeted, and ongoing. Geographic fragmentation in programs (both government and industry) has contributed to a patchwork approach across the country. Improvements need to be made along the production continuum, both upstream and downstream of the primary producer. Increased utilization of service professionals (veterinarians, feed operators, transporters, processors) is crucial. An increased need for shared risk management strategies among industry and government has been identified. The culture of biosecurity needs to be in existence before a major event, including protocols, training, and equipment/infrastructure.