

Theme 3 | Biosecurity

Biosecurity is critical to protecting against the introduction and spread of diseases. Biosecurity can be cost effective and easily implemented, with small changes to management having a large impact. Nearly all industry groups interviewed spoke about disease prevention as a core pillar of their animal health and welfare strategy. Through national quality assurance programs (e.g., Dairy Farmer of Canada's proAction program, Canadian Cattle Association's Verified Beef Production Plus, Canadian Swine Biosecurity Initiative, etc.), disease-specific programming, and close collaboration with livestock veterinarians, Canadian livestock industries are championing a proactive approach to animal health through disease prevention. While many groups, such as the Canadian poultry and swine sectors, have heavily focused on emerging and foreign animal diseases, such as AI, ASF, and PED, other groups have focused on supporting farmers in working with on-farm advisors, such as the herd veterinarian, to support them in identifying tailored practices that ought to be implemented on-farm to control existing disease challenges, and prevent the introduction of new ones. Biosecurity practices have been instrumental in helping to eradicate past diseases, and prepare for future outbreaks. The following case studies from the CFIA and the Animal Health Emergency Management (AHEM) project demonstrate some key successes and lessons learned through biosecurity in animal agriculture.

