
FACT SHEET

Purchase of cattle, hiring a bull and returning it after the breeding season presents the highest risk for introducing infectious hazards into the farm. Proper animal movements can be applied by producers to reduce the risk through knowledge of disease history, quarantine, disease testing, prophylactic treatment and proper practice of reintroducing resident cattle.

New cattle

Before purchasing and moving in

- Minimise the number of cattle purchased and the number of source herds. Avoid purchasing breeding stock from mixed sales, such as auctions.
- Purchase cattle which have not previously bred
- Purchase from herds with closed / limited contact and having herd health & vaccination programs under veterinary oversight. Thus, ask questions about health status of source herds.
- Request clinical examination of bulls by a veterinary practitioner
- Perform laboratory testing prior to animal introduction
- Quarantine cattle before movement for at least 4 weeks or assign a quarantine area on the farm destination
- Medicate cattle prophylactically before movement
- Complete vaccination at least 2 weeks before release the new cattle from quarantine



CATTLE BIOSECURITY

MANAGEMENT OF NEW AND RETURNING CATTLE INTO YOUR FARM

Movement in and post-movement

- Load and unload animals at the perimeter of the farms
- Avoid mixing animals from different sources in the transport vehicle
- Refuse animals presenting suspicious clinical signs
- Locate the new cattle on a quarantine area and prevent contact with breeding animals
- Group-segregate and isolate pregnant cattle until calving
- Test progeny of females purchased (avoid disease transmitted transplacentally)
- Transport purchased cattle in the purchaser's vehicle or in a clean vehicle using a reputable company

Returning resident cattle

- Avoid and isolate in a quarantine area for 14 to 30 days cattle returning from out-farms, no sharing common grazing and accommodation with resident cattle
- Monitor animal behaviour and health abnormalities for early disease detection
- Limit participation in agricultural shows and test cattle prior to admittance to shows
- Test returning animal(s) while they are in isolation