



TEMPLATE FOR DISEASE PREVENTION

NCBA's BQA program releases Checkoff-funded tool to help cattlemen and women prepare a custom biosecurity plan.

In support of cattle producers across the country dedicated to preventing disease, improving animal welfare and reducing production losses, the Beef Checkoff-funded Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) program developed a Daily Biosecurity Plan for Disease Prevention template.

The template, which helps cattle producers implement daily biosecurity measures on their operations, is available digitally as a PDF or can be printed for handwritten plans.

The template was specifically designed to be customizable, giving producers flexibility in determining management practices that work best for their cattle operation, and covers everything from animal movement to worker training.

The goal of the introductory and stepwise program is to provide beef farmers and ranchers across the country with the information needed to implement biosecurity plans. In addition to providing basic information, the tool emphasizes why biosecurity is vital

**TOOLS TO
BIOSECURITY PLAN
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on cattle operations and provides an opportunity for producers to have conversations with their herd veterinarians, extension agents and state BQA coordinators about biosecurity preparedness.

“Biosecurity is a top priority for the beef industry,” says Kim Brackett, an Idaho cattle producer and chair of the BQA Advisory Group. “This Beef Checkoff-funded tool allows beef farmers and ranchers to develop their own biosecurity plans unique to their operations.

“Whether a cow-calf operation in California, a backgrounder in Mississippi or a feedyard in Kansas, being proactive and developing a written plan ahead of a crisis allows producers to implement and become familiar

with biosecurity precautions,” she continues. “Even more importantly, producers will be prepared if a biosecurity threat were to happen.”

The “Daily Biosecurity Plan for Disease Prevention” template was created in collaboration with the USDA and its Secure Beef Supply plan (see <https://securebeef.org/>). By intersecting these resources, producers who already have biosecurity steps in place for day-to-day operations are able to easily move to an enhanced biosecurity plan to prepare for a potential outbreak of a foreign animal disease, such as foot-and-mouth disease (FMD).

Timely reminder

Release of the biosecurity plan template is timely, as the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) voices concern regarding

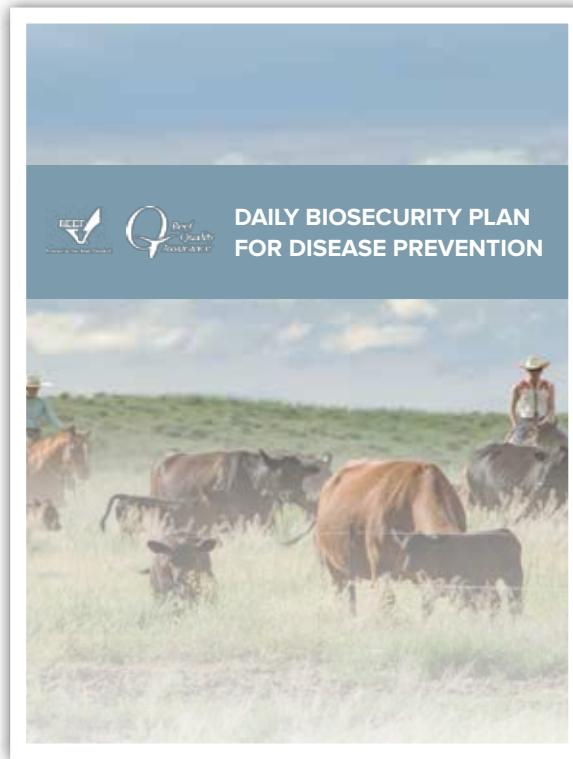
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reports of another reported occurrence of FMD in Namibia, a country in southwest Africa.

“The unfortunate and continued presence of FMD outbreaks in Namibia is a serious concern for U.S. cattle producers,” says Kent Bacus, senior director of international trade and market access. “While the latest outbreak occurred in the buffer zone and north of the cordon fence, this is the second occurrence of FMD in a matter of months.

“As we stated in October 2020,” he continues, “FMD is a grave and persistent threat to the U.S. cattle industry, and warrants every available caution and protection to ensure that the problems plaguing cattle production in other parts of the world do not reach our shores.”

NCBA supports regionalization



as a tool to protect against the spread of disease while facilitating science-based trade, but encourages USDA to ensure preventative measures are in place to protect the U.S. cattle industry

from exposure to the highly contagious disease that, Bacus notes, “could devastate the U.S. cattle industry.”

“In regard to FMD, Namibia is divided into two zones,” Bacus explains. “The northern zone, where FMD continues to occur and is not approved for export to the United States, and the southern zone — an area that is free of FMD and is designated as safe for export. Namibia has extensive measures in place, including a cordon fence and a buffer zone to prevent the spread of FMD from the northern zone to the southern zone.”

Preparation

The USDA and the beef industry have for years been discussing and preparing for worst-case scenarios. As USDA’s website points out, if a

case of FMD were found in U.S. livestock, regulatory officials would limit movement of animals and animal products to try to control spread and limit the effects of the disease on the livestock industry.

Participating in the “Secure Beef Supply Plan for Continuity of Business” and the “Daily Biosecurity Plan for Disease Prevention” will better position herds with no evidence of infection to limit their risk of exposure, allow movement of animals to processing plants and maintain business continuity.

For more information about BQA and the BQA Daily Biosecurity Plan, visit <https://www.bqa.org/>. |

Editor’s note: This article was adapted from articles provided by the NCBA, a contractor to the Beef Checkoff.