



Biosecurity Code for Northern Ireland Farms

Also, guidance for
official visitors to
farm properties and
recreational users
of farmland



Foreword



The need for farmers, and those who keep animals, to be aware of and to put into practice good biosecurity on their farms has never been greater, particularly in the light of the 1997 Newcastle disease outbreak, the 2001 foot and mouth disease outbreak, and on-going animal disease problems such as TB, and brucellosis.

One of the Vision Report recommendations was that all farm quality assurance schemes covering livestock should have a significant animal health and welfare component drawn up in conjunction with the veterinary profession, including a herd/flock health plan and covering biosecurity. Indeed the Northern Ireland Beef and Lamb Farm Quality Assurance Scheme already encompasses a farm biosecurity policy in its Animal Health plan requirements. The PricewaterhouseCooper's Independent Review on foot and mouth disease noted that individual farmers must play their part in disease prevention and that biosecurity is complementary to, and a necessary component of, fortress farming.

Forthcoming European Regulations on Feed and Food Hygiene will increase the need for primary producers to adhere to the advice given in this Code. It is therefore prudent to put good biosecurity practices into place now in order to be fully prepared once they become law. Good biosecurity should encompass practices that are not introduced just at the time of an emergency – it should become an integral part of everyday farming in order to prevent serious animal disease, which can have devastating effects on farmers, rural dwellers and visitors alike.

While this Code is a voluntary document and it has no legal status, some issues outlined are covered by legislation and those areas are indicated in the Code. The Code is designed to heighten awareness of the need for improved biosecurity measures on farms. I therefore ask all involved in farming and the countryside to study the document and to apply its recommendations. The prevention of disease spread in N.I. is essential to promote a more competitive industry, protect public health and safeguard the interests of consumers and taxpayers.

Rt Hon Ian Pearson

The following organisations participated in drawing up the Biosecurity Code:

Association of Veterinary Surgeons Practicing in Northern Ireland

Livestock and Meat Commission

Livestock Auctioneers Association (NI)

Northern Ireland Agricultural Producers Association

Northern Ireland Dairy Association

Northern Ireland Poultry Federation

North of Ireland Veterinary Association

Ulster Farmers Union

Northern Ireland National Beef Association

Northern Ireland Meat Exporters Association



The North of Ireland
Veterinary Association



Association of Veterinary
Surgeons Practicing in
Northern Ireland



**Livestock Auctioneers'
Association (NI)**



**Northern Ireland
Poultry Federation**



**Northern Ireland
Agricultural
Producers Association**



**Northern Ireland
Dairy Association**



Ulster Farmers Union



**Northern Ireland National
Beef Association**





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Preface

This preface is not part of the Code but is intended to explain the legal considerations upon which it is based.

The law relevant to parts of the code is the law in force on the date of publication or reprinting of the code (Please turn to back cover for this information). Any of the legal requirements quoted may be subject to change – readers should seek confirmation before assuming that these are an accurate statement of the law currently in force.

This Code covers Northern Ireland only.

Parts Three and Four are not part of the Code but are intended as guidance to official visitors to farm properties and recreational users of farmland.





Farmers and all those involved in the Agri-food industry have their part to play in Biosecurity

Reasons for a Bioscurity Code and how disease spreads

1. *Introduction*

There is a recognised need to maintain and improve the health and welfare status of our national herds and flocks. This Biosecurity Code has been written as a means of achieving progress, with emphasis on the merits of sector-wide adoption of animal health plans.

Implementation of prudent measures suggested in this code can reduce significantly the risk of disease spreading to farms, and may also assist in reduction of existing disease.

This document is intended to provide a basic reference for the industry, but cannot address every eventuality. If in doubt always consult your Veterinary Surgeon, or your local Divisional Veterinary Office. (See Annex 2 for contact details).

2. *What is Biosecurity?*

Biosecurity is the prevention of disease causing agents entering or leaving any place where they can pose a risk to farm animals, other animals, humans, or the safety and quality of a food product. The same principles apply within the farm, preventing disease spreading between animals and groups.

The production of a healthy and wholesome product relies on every part of the agri-food industry playing its part in making sure that we receive the benefits of good biosecurity. This ranges from dealing with the threat from exotic disease by the controls at ports and airports, to the controls at feedmills, hatcheries, AI stations, dairies, abattoirs and markets, to the final barrier, "fortress farming" at the farmgate.



Part

1

Reasons for a Bioscurity Code and how disease spreads

Some of these controls are enforced by law, but many are the result of the industry's realisation of the importance of effective biosecurity to safeguard their produce.

This Biosecurity Code outlines the actions which should be taken at the farmgate and on the farm, and emphasizes how farmers and those who keep animals can minimize the risk to their stock.

Biosecurity is more than cleansing and disinfecting; it includes, for example the prudent sourcing of stock, on-farm quarantine, and testing for specific diseases, as the single most effective way of spreading animal disease is the movement of infected livestock, which may or may not be exhibiting signs of illness, onto or off the farm.

The Biosecurity requirements of pig and poultry units are similar in many respects, but because of their intensive and specialized production methods, more specific information is to be found in their Codes of Practice and Assurance Schemes. (See Annex 6 for details on how to obtain a copy).



Reasons for a Bioscurity Code and how disease spreads

3. *What's in it for the farmer, other livestock keepers, rural dwellers, and those who enjoy the countryside?*

Benefits of a reduced animal disease incidence:

- Reduced costs of treatment/prevention of illness, including farmer's time.
- Reduced stress on animals and poultry resulting in improved animal welfare and reduced stress for animal owners.
- Reduced disruption of farming and rural businesses.
- Improved productivity and performance.
- Improved quality of marketable produce
- Reduced risk of transmission of diseases that can spread to humans, e.g. *Salmonella spp*, *E.coli* etc.
- Protected export markets
- Potential to improve the quality of the environment as a consequence of the reduced disposal of wastes.

The whole rural economy benefits from improved national herd and flock health, with a more efficient production system for a quality product.

Biosecurity principles should apply regardless of the size of the enterprise, from the single farm animal or horse kept as a pet, to the largest farm business.



Reasons for a Bioscurity Code and how disease spreads

4. *Notifiable disease*

The legal classification of this group of diseases alone justifies their inclusion as a distinct group. They are classified in this way because of the potential impact on the entire industry, as seen with the recent foot and mouth outbreak, or for public health reasons.

A full list of notifiable diseases can be found in Annex 3, but at present those that are most relevant to N.I. are tuberculosis, brucellosis, BSE/Scrapie and Aujeszky's disease, and of these the incidence of tuberculosis and brucellosis remain of particular concern.

Notifiable diseases or suspicion of Notifiable diseases must be reported to the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (see Annex 2 for contact details).

Further information on tuberculosis and brucellosis is contained in Annex 4. Leaflets dealing with tuberculosis and brucellosis can be obtained from your local Divisional Veterinary Office (listed in Annex 2).



Reasons for a Bioscurity Code and how disease spreads

5. *How Disease is spread*

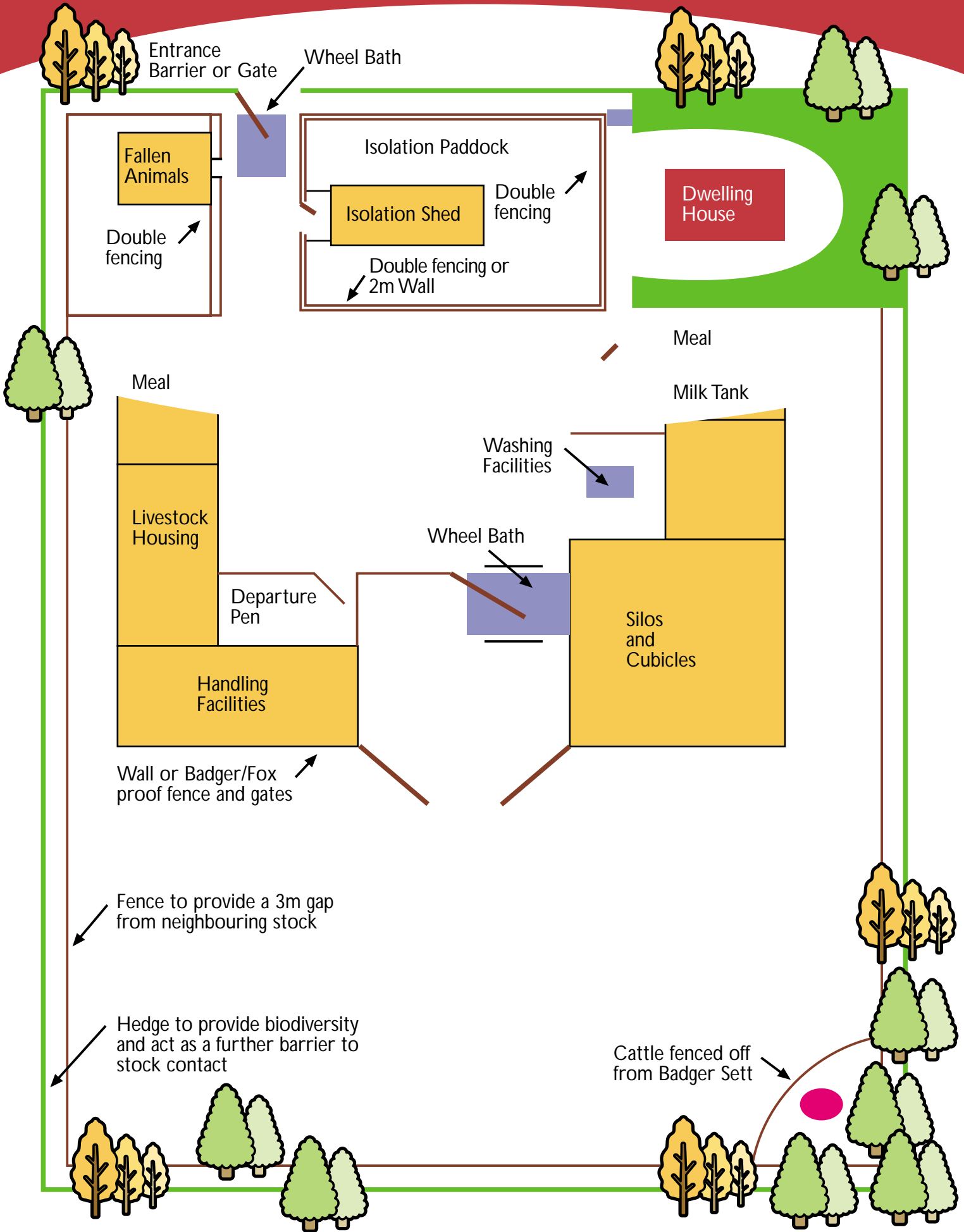
Most animal diseases are caused by infectious agents; bacteria, viruses, protozoa or parasites. These are the diseases that biosecurity measures can help to contain. Whatever the cause, the result is increased overhead costs to the industry and a reduction in animal welfare. Reduction of disease incidence, therefore, is a priority for everyone, and should not be left to chance.

Infectious animal disease can be transmitted by:

- Direct or indirect contact with infected animals, their secretions and discharges.
- Mother to offspring, including via milk and in utero infection.
- Contaminated equipment, food or water, including pasture.
- Contaminated dosing and injecting equipment.
- Breathing the same air as infected animals.
- Vermin/wildlife.
- Humans and/or their vehicles.



Diagram of a farm with good biosecurity features



The part played at the farm

6. *Planning to avoid disease: the health plan*

Any disease in a herd/flock is unwelcome. Affected animals suffer welfare problems and productivity is lost. However, the existence of disease can be reduced, and the losses and suffering minimised, by careful planning. An animal health plan should be created to reduce the risk of introducing disease and to recognise, treat and control existing conditions. The prevention and control of disease should not be left to chance. Your Veterinary Surgeon will be able to advise on the biosecurity measures most appropriate for your herd/flock health plan. Such a plan should be updated annually.

Farm Assurance Schemes recognise the benefits of these health plans, and have included them in their standards.

When making changes to your farm and farm policy, and/or major changes to buildings, implement biosecurity measures to improve the health of your animals.

The provision of isolation facilities plays an important part in controlling the entry of, and spread of disease on your farm, and is part of the process in planning to avoid disease.

Hygienic farm production should be based on a process of identifying potential food safety hazards, assessing the risks of them occurring, and establishing controls at key stages to manage these risks. (Annex 1- Reference 11).

7. *Reducing risks (includes protocol for new / returning animals)*

The preventative measures outlined below should become part of your routine:

- Maintain a closed herd/flock or, if this is not feasible, only purchase from a small number of reliable sources.



The part played at the farm

- When sourcing animals check the testing history and satisfy yourself about the disease status of the animals and the herd/flock from which they come.
- Comply carefully with the animal movement legislation. It is there to protect you. (Annex 1-Reference 1)
- Do not share bulls between herds.
- New or returning livestock should be placed in isolation for 21 days. This includes animals returning home from shows. The quarantine facility should be a house, which does not share airspace, water supply or drainage with any other animal accommodation, and is a minimum of 3 metres away from other livestock areas. A field or paddock may also satisfy these criteria. If in doubt your own Veterinary Surgeon can advise on suitability.
- Your Veterinary Surgeon can advise on the need for testing for certain specific diseases, such as infectious bovine rhinotracheitis (IBR), bovine viral diarrhoea (BVD) etc. Make sure that the Aujeszky's disease status in pigs is the same as, or better than, the status in your herd so as not to jeopardise your own herd's status. (Annex 1-Reference 1).
- Obtain information on any recent treatments or vaccinations the animals have received from the seller.
Remember: Imported and bought-in stock may also be at risk from disease present on your farm.
- Use appropriate vaccinations, under the direction of your Veterinary Surgeon, as a tool to reduce the incidence of disease.
- Routinely treat all purchased stock for internal and external parasites. Consult your Veterinary Surgeon for the best treatment regime to avoid anthelmintic resistance in sheep.
- Maintain your stock in a good standard of health, and welfare. If any stock are not thriving ask yourself why, and seek help. Help is available from your Veterinary Surgeon, Veterinary Sciences



The part played at the farm

Division, and locally based College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise Development Advisers, College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE). (See Annex 5 for contact numbers).

- Have your Veterinary Surgeon investigate disease outbreaks on your farm, and utilise the extensive resources available at Veterinary Sciences Division to help reach a diagnosis. (See Annex 5 for contact numbers).
- At the first signs of illness, isolate sick animals and burn, bury, or compost bedding after use.
- Dispose of dead animals, (which includes foetuses and afterbirth) promptly, hygienically and in accordance with the legislation (Annex 1-Reference 3). Aborted foetuses, afterbirth, and calves dying within 2 days of birth may pose special risks. For more information consult the leaflet, "Protecting you and your family from brucellosis" (See Annex 7 for details).

Each farm should have a collection area for fallen animals, capable of being cleansed and disinfected. Site as far away from animals and as near the farm entrance as possible, so that contact with the fallen animal collection vehicle is kept to a minimum. Prevent access by animals (including vermin), children, and non-essential people. Keep fallen animals covered, or if possible, in a sealed polythene bag, or in a leak-proof covered bin or container. Cleanse and disinfect the site, equipment or containers used, after removal of the carcass.

Remember: All abortions must be reported to your local Divisional Veterinary Office. (See Annex 2 for contact numbers).



Part

2

The part played at the farm



- Newborn animals are particularly susceptible to disease, so ensure calving/lambing/farrowing/foaling pens and incubators/hatcheries are cleaned and disinfected regularly.

Remember: Disinfectant is ineffective if dirt is present so cleaning must first be carried out thoroughly, and disinfectant must be used at the correct strength. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions for use. A list of approved disinfectants can be obtained from your local Divisional Veterinary Office. (see Annex 2 for contact numbers).

- Avoid nose to nose contact with neighbouring stock.
- Farm boundaries should be secure, and be checked regularly. There should be at least a 3-metre gap between neighbouring livestock. (This can incorporate a thick hedge, a useful physical barrier, as well as increasing farm biodiversity).
- Where possible, and especially with young animals, (calves, pigs and poultry), an "all in, all out" policy should be adopted.



Part

2

The part played at the farm

- Overwintering cattle in accommodation shared with other herdkeepers is a high risk and should be avoided. If not possible, then make enquiries about the health status of the in-contact animals.

Comply fully with rules on movement notifications and movement licenses, as it is vital that all in-contacts can be traced in the event of a disease outbreak. (Annex 1-Reference 1)

Isolate these animals for 21 days, before reintroducing to your other livestock.

- Similarly where common grazing is used, livestock should be isolated for 21 days upon return.



Keep your stock separate from your neighbours' stock



8. Vehicles

- Avoid unnecessary contact between vehicles and livestock.
- Thoroughly clean and disinfect all vehicles if they have had contact with livestock from other premises.
- Livestock must only be transported in vehicles that have been cleansed and disinfected. These vehicles must be cleaned and disinfected after transporting livestock. (Annex 1-Reference 4).
- Avoid sharing trailers and other machinery. If hauliers or contractors must be used, inspect for cleanliness and disinfection.

Biosecurity starts at the entrance



9. Buildings and Equipment

- Clean and disinfect buildings after use by livestock. The risk of disease is greatest around calving/ lambing/farrowing/ foaling/hatching, and in young animals, so pay greatest attention to calving/ lambing/farrowing/foaling pens, hatchery and rearing accommodation.

*Clean and disinfect
buildings regularly*



- Clean and disinfect all shared and hired equipment before and after use. There is a particular risk where equipment comes in close contact with the animals such as shearing/clipping, hoof trimming equipment, and ultrasound scanners for pregnancy diagnosis.



Part

2

The part played at the farm

*Clean and disinfect
protective clothing
regularly*



10. People

- Practise good personal hygiene. Wash hands thoroughly after close contact with farm animals. Provide permanent facilities for hand washing.
- Adopt a routine of wearing clean protective clothing and footwear for use solely on your premises. Wash and disinfect regularly.
- Never wear work clothes to the market or other places where farmers and animals are present.
- Ask all business callers to make an appointment, and reduce the number of visitors to your farmyard. Display notices directing visitors to the farmhouse or office. Do not let visitors come into contact with animals, animal housing, or feedstuffs unless it is necessary.
- Provide a washing area, brush, water and disinfectant or equivalent facilities for all visitors/workers on arrival and departure.
- Staff and visitors should be made aware of the need for hygiene and disease security.

Remember: Some animal diseases can infect people. (See Annex 7 for details of the leaflets "Protecting you and your family from brucellosis" and "Common Zoonoses in Agriculture").

*Make sure boots are
cleaned and disinfected*



The part played at the farm

11. Animal medicines

- Use only clean dosing equipment and sterile injection equipment, and do not share.
- Record use of veterinary medicines in accordance with the regulations. (Annex 1-Reference 5).
- Use medicines in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. (Annex 1-Reference 5).
- Source all veterinary medicines from legitimate suppliers only. This ensures that only authorised medicines are used and helps ensure that they are used appropriately. Inappropriate usage can lead to the masking of disease problems, or reduced efficacy of the medicine, and could result in prosecution and financial loss due to rejection of the carcass or produce. (Annex 1-Reference 5).

12. Slurry and Manure

Pathogens can survive in slurry and manure and it is sensible to exercise caution in handling and applying livestock wastes. (Annex 1-References 8,9 & 10)

Special care must be taken to ensure that all manures, slurry, and litters are free from carcasses, parts of carcasses, aborted foetuses and foetal afterbirths. (Annex 1-Reference 3 & Reference 9)

To minimise the risk: -

- Spread on cultivated land rather than grass for conservation, and avoid spreading on land for grazing if you can. If this becomes necessary, allow a 6 week gap between spreading and access by livestock. (For poultry litter, see below).



Part

2

The part played at the farm

- Ensure that aborted materials are not spread in slurry or manure.
- Do not spray slurry up into the air, creating aerosols, which can transmit infections, but use an inverted spreading plate, or preferably spread by injection.
- Avoid using hired/shared spreaders if possible, but if you must, thoroughly cleanse and disinfect before and after use.

Special care must be taken in relation to the disposal of poultry litter due to the risk to cattle from botulism. (Botulism in cattle has not been associated with poultry manure eg from laying hens) (See Annex 7 for details of the leaflet "Botulism in cattle").

- Poultry litter should not be spread on land for grazing or conservation and cattle should not have access until at least the following grazing season. This also applies to other materials and water contaminated with poultry litter.

Further information is contained in the *Code of Good Agricultural Practice for the Prevention of Pollution of Water*, and the *Code of Good Agricultural Practice for the Prevention of Pollution of Soil and Air*. Information and advice can be obtained from Countryside Management Branch (see Annex 5 for contact details), and copies can be obtained from the DARD Internet site www.dardni.gov.uk/core/dard0444.htm.

Avoid aerosols when
spraying slurry



The part played at the farm

The spreading of sewage sludge onto agricultural land is controlled by The Sludge (Use in Agriculture) Regulations (NI) 1990 which is enforced by the Department of the Environment (see Annex 5 for contact details). This legislation aims to protect human and animal health and to maintain soil fertility and crop yields.

13. Records and traceability

- There are legal requirements for the registration of all livestock premises, for animal identification, and for the keeping of breeding and movement records. Rapid traceability is important for effective disease control. (Annex1-Reference 1)
Registration and record-keeping requirements will be increased under the forthcoming EU Feed and Food Hygiene Regulations. (Annex 1- Reference 11)
- Keepers of cattle, sheep, pigs, goats, poultry and farmed deer must be registered and their animals identified in accordance with the law (Annex 1-Reference 1).
- Vehicles and people can spread disease. Records of visitors and deliveries would greatly assist veterinary investigations into notifiable disease outbreaks.

14. Wildlife

Wild animals and birds can spread disease. To reduce this risk:

- Keep your farmyard and surroundings clean and tidy.
- Have an active vermin control policy.
- Discourage access to food, farm buildings and poultry litter.
- Avoid grazing fields which contain badger setts, if possible.
- Fence off badger setts to prevent access by cattle.
- Raise troughs and drinkers off the ground to minimise access by badgers.



Keep vermin under control



15. Feed and Water

Compound feed should not be used for species other than those for which it is intended.

To reduce the risk of disease spread:

- Keep feed in a clean, dry store secure from wildlife, dogs and cats.
- Dispose of waste feed effectively and safely by incineration, burial or composting.
- Discourage vermin by disposing of waste feed, and operating vermin control.
- Clean feed and water troughs regularly.
- Use mains water (or bore hole water which satisfies similar microbiological standards) wherever possible.
- Fence off watercourses and stagnant ponds.



*Raise troughs and
reduce contamination*



Part

2

The part played at the farm

- Raise troughs, drinkers and mineral blocks off the ground to avoid faecal contamination.
- The feeding of swill (catering waste which contains meat, meat products, or products that have been in contact with meat), is banned (Annex 1- Reference 6).

16. Dogs and Cats

Regularly treat dogs and cats for roundworms and tapeworms, particularly newly acquired animals, before they have access to pasture. Cat, particularly kitten, faeces may contain *Toxoplasma* oocysts, which can lead to abortion in sheep (and in women), so cats should not be allowed into feedstores. It is advisable to neuter cats to reduce the number of kittens on the farm.

Dogs and cats should not be fed household scraps as foot and mouth outbreaks have been attributed to improper disposal of waste meat products.



*Man's best friend -
be aware of the disease risks*



Be aware of the disease risks





WARNING
DISEASE RESTRICTIONS
IN OPERATION
DO NOT ENTER
LIVESTOCK UNITS

! Drive slowly
Farmyard

WELCOME TO THE FARM
WITH RESTRICTIONS

Advice for official visitors to farm properties

Being aware of the risk of spread of animal disease by visitors to farm premises, the farmer is justified in asking for the cooperation of anyone entering the farm. To help the industry combat the transmission of animal disease, the farmer should respectfully request the adherence to certain rules.

- Business visitors and contractors should contact the farmer first to arrange the visit. Official visits for enforcement or investigation purposes may require an unannounced visit, and where this is necessary, the visiting officers will comply with the car parking and cleansing and disinfection requirements of the Code.
- Visitors should advise the farmer if they have previously been on other livestock premises that day.
- Visitors are asked to park sensibly in an area, which avoids potential contact with farm livestock.
- All visitors should ensure that they make use of cleansing and disinfection facilities provided for footwear, that their clothing is clean, and they wear protective clothing where necessary.
- Agricultural contractors should ensure that all vehicles, machinery and equipment have been cleaned and disinfected before going onto and before leaving the farm.
- Visitors should follow biosecurity advice given by the farmer.





PLEASE
Use the stile and leave
gate closed
Keep dogs on lead
Leave no litter
Thank you

Part

4

Advice for recreational users of farmland

Walkers, cyclists, horse-riders and other countryside users, are requested to follow the advice below.

- Never feed animals or leave food lying around.
- Take all litter with you. Keep the countryside tidy.
- Ensure gates are left as they are found.
- Avoid contact with farm animals.
- Particular risks to people such as *E.coli*. can arise when people picnic or camp in fields that are being, or have recently been, used for grazing.
- Keep dogs under control.
- Respect any official signposting in the event of a disease outbreak.
- Use disinfectant footpads or baths where provided, particularly in the event of a disease outbreak.
- Follow biosecurity advice given by the farmer.





Biosecurity is for everyone who keeps animals or poultry

Legislation

The following statutes relate to reference numbers appearing in the code.

Reference 1: The identification, registration and movement of animals, and the registration of herds and flocks is covered by:

Cattle

Cattle Identification (No.2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998 S.R.1998 No.279 (amended by S.R.1999 No.324)

Cattle Identification (Notification of Births, Deaths and Movements) Regulations (NI) 1999 S.R. 1999 No. 265

Cattle Identification (Enforcement) Regulations (NI) 1998 S.R. 1998 No.27

Cattle Passport Regulations (NI) 1999 S.R 1999 No.324

Pigs

Aujeszky's Disease Order (Northern Ireland) 1994 S.R. 1994 No. 198

Aujeszky's Disease (Scheme) Order (Northern Ireland) 1994 S.R. 1994 No. 199

Sheep / Goats

Identification and Movement of Sheep and Goats Order (NI) 1997 S.R.1997 No. 173 (as amended by S.R. 1998 No. 393.)

Poultry

Poultry Breeding Flocks and Hatcheries Scheme Order (Northern Ireland) 1994 S.R 1994 No. 118 (as amended by S.R.2000 No. 110).

Diseases of Poultry Order (NI) 1995 S.R. 1995 No. 465 (as amended by S.R.2003 No. 401)

Diseases of Poultry Scheme Order (NI) 1995 S.R. 1995 No. 464



Legislation

- Reference 2: The keeping of records is covered by the:
Animal Records Order (Northern Ireland) 1997 S.R.1997
No. 172 (as amended by S.R. 1998 No. 27 and S.R. 2000
No. 344)
- Reference 3: The disposal of fallen animals, foetuses and afterbirths,
and animal by-products is covered by:
The EU Animal By-Products Regulation (EC) No
1774/2002 and the Animal By-Products Regulations (NI)
2003. S.R. 2003 No.495
- Reference 4: The transport of animals and disinfection of vehicles used
in animal transport is covered by:
The Welfare of Animals (Transport) Order (Northern
Ireland) 1998
Transport of Animals and Poultry (Cleansing and
Disinfection) No. 2 Order (Northern Ireland) 1997 S.R.
1997 No 466
- Reference 5: The use of, and record keeping relating to, animal
medicines is covered by:
The Medicines (Restrictions on the Administration of
Veterinary Medicinal Products) Regulations 1994 S.I. 1994
No. 2987 (as amended by S. I. 1997 No.2884).
The Animals and Animal Products (Examination for
Residues and Maximum Residue Limits) Regulations
(Northern Ireland) 1998 S.R. 1998 No. 237 (currently
under review).
- Reference 6: The swill feeding ban is covered by the:
The Animal By-Products Regulations (NI) 2003. S.R. 2003
No.495



Legislation

Reference 7: The welfare of animals is covered by the:
The Welfare of Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 1972.
The Welfare of Farmed Animals Regulations (Northern
Ireland) 2000 S.R. 2000 No. 270 (as amended by S.R.
2002 No. 259).

Reference 8: The legislation for the control of tuberculosis is:
The Tuberculosis Control Order (NI) 1999 No. 263
The Tuberculosis (Examination and Testing) Scheme
Order 1999 No.264.

Reference 9: The legislation for the control of brucellosis is:
The Brucellosis Control Order (NI) 1972 No. 94. This
Order is under review and new legislation is due to be
introduced in June 2004.

*For more information on any of the above, please contact
your local Divisional Veterinary Office. (See Annex 2 for
contact details).*

Reference 10: The legislation dealing with the prevention of pollution
caused by the spreading of slurry and manure is enforced
by these organisations and listed below:

**1. These regulations are enforced by District
Councils.**

The Public Health (Ireland) Act 1878

The Clean Air (Northern Ireland) Order 1981

Pollution Prevention and Control Regulation (NI) 2003 -



2. These regulations are enforced by the DOE.

The Sludge (use in Agriculture) Regulations (NI) 1990

The Water (Northern Ireland) Order 1999

The Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998

Council Directive 91/676/EEC concerning the Protection of Waters against Pollution caused by Nitrates from Agricultural Sources

Action Programme for Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (Northern Ireland) 1999

The Waste Collection and Disposal Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1992 as amended by the Waste Collection and Disposal (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997

The Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)

The Control of Pollution (Silage, Slurry and Agricultural Fuel Oil) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003

3. This regulation is enforced by the Health and Safety Executive

The Food and Environmental Protection Act 1985
Chapter 48, Part III

Reference 11: The proposed EU legislation on Feed and Food Hygiene has a provisional implementation date of 01/01/2006. Consultations on these are ongoing with the industry.

For more information please contact the Food Standards Agency (NI). (See Annex 5 for contact details).

Copies of the legislation may be obtained from The Stationery Office. (See Annex 5 for contact details).



Veterinary Service contact numbers

Divisional Veterinary Offices (DVOs)

ARMAGH Mall West ARMAGH BT61 7JN TEL: 028 3752 9900 FAX: 028 3752 9911	LARNE Crown Buildings Pound Street LARNE, BT40 1SH TEL: 028 2826 3222 FAX: 028 2826 3220
BALLYMENA Kilpatrick House 38-54 High Street BALLYMENA BT43 6DP TEL: 028 2566 2862 FAX: 028 2566 2853	LONDONDERRY Crown Buildings Asylum Road LONDONDERRY BT48 7EB TEL: 028 7131 9592 FAX: 028 7137 2489
COLERAINE Crown Buildings Artillery Road COLERAINE BT52 2AJ TEL: 028 7034 1111 FAX: 028 7034 1135	NEWRY Glenree House Unit 2 Springhill Road Carnbane Industrial Estate NEWRY, BT35 6EF TEL: 028 3025 3200 FAX: 028 3025 3222
DUNGANNON Crown Buildings Thomas Street DUNGANNON BT70 1HR TEL: 028 8775 4777 FAX: 028 8775 4888	NEWTOWNARDS 9 Robert Street NEWTOWNARDS BT23 4DN TEL: 028 9182 5825 FAX: 028 9181 3870
ENNISKILLEN Inishkeen House Killyhevlin ENNISKILLEN BT74 4EJ TEL: 028 6632 5004 FAX: 028 6634 3043	OMAGH Sperrin House Sedan Avenue OMAGH BT79 7AQ TEL: 028 8225 1020 FAX: 028 8225 3400



Veterinary Service contact numbers

2. **REPORTING NOTIFIABLE DISEASE AND WELFARE PROBLEMS:**

Notifiable diseases or suspicion of a notifiable disease must be reported to the Divisional Veterinary Office.

During working hours, Monday to Friday 9-5, please contact the local Divisional Veterinary Office

For Out of Hours contact to report suspect epizootic disease (e.g. Swine Fever, Foot and Mouth Disease, Newcastle disease), please contact the Hotline.

Hotline: (028) 9052 5596

To report common Notifiable Disease suspects (e.g. Anthrax, BSE) and Welfare problems during weekends and public holidays, please contact the duty VO for the Divisional Veterinary office area.

Armagh	Tel: 0776 4204 400
Ballymena	Tel: 0776 4204 403
Coleraine	Tel: 0776 4204 413
Dungannon	Tel: 0776 4204 421
Enniskillen	Tel: 0776 4204 422
Larne	Tel: 0776 4204 423
Londonderry	Tel: 0776 4204 425
Newry	Tel: 0776 4204 426
Newtownards	Tel: 0776 4204 427
Omagh	Tel: 0776 4204 429

Advice and assistance is also available from the Veterinary Service

Headquarters: Tel: (028) 9052 4556

Fax: (028) 9052 5012



Notifiable Disease

At the first sign or suspicion of a notifiable disease, the local Divisional Veterinary Office must be notified. (See Annex 2 for contact number) Some of the notifiable diseases are **exotic** and occur rarely in NI. These include the major epizootic diseases such as foot and mouth disease, swine fever, and Newcastle Disease, and whose presence or suspicion must be notified immediately to the Divisional Veterinary Office or to the “out of hours” hotline (see Annex 2 for the contact number). Some notifiable diseases are **present** in N.I. and these include TB, BR, Aujeszky's disease, and BSE. These must also be notified to the Divisional Veterinary Office.



2. LIST OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES AND THE YEAR OF LAST OCCURRENCE IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Notifiable Diseases	Species	Last Occurrence
African horse sickness	Horses	Never
African Swine Fever	Pigs	Never
Anthrax	Cattle and other mammals	1990
Aujeszky's disease	Pigs & other mammals	Present
Blue tongue	Sheep & goats	Never
Bovine spongiform encephalopathy	Cattle	Present
Bovine tuberculosis	Cattle, sheep and deer	Present
Brucellosis (<i>Brucella abortus</i>)	Cattle	Present
Brucellosis (<i>Brucella melitensis</i>)	Sheep & goats	Never
Caseous lymphadenitis	Sheep	Present
Classical Swine fever	Pigs	1958
Contagious agalactia	Sheep & goats	Never
Contagious equine metritis	Horses	1984
Contagious pleuro-pneumonia (otherwise known as Pleuro -pneumonia)	Cattle	1893
Dourine	Horses	Never
Enzootic Bovine leucosis	Cattle	Never
Epizootic haemorrhagic disease	Deer	Never
Epizootic lymphangitis	Horses	Never



Notifiable Disease

Notifiable Diseases	Species	Last Occurrence
Equine encephalomyelitis	Horses	Never
Equine viral arteritis	Horses	1995
Foot and Mouth disease	Cattle, sheep, pigs and other cloven hoofed animals	2001
Glanders	Horses	1910
Goat pox	Goats	1850
Infectious bovine rhinotracheitis	Cattle	Present
Infectious equine anaemia	Horses	Never
Influenza A infection	Horses	1998
Jaagsiekte complex	Sheep & goats	Present
Johne's Disease	Cattle, sheep & goats	Present
Lumpy skin disease	Cattle	Never
Peste des petits ruminants	Sheep & goats	Never
Porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS) (Blue-eared pig disease)	Pigs	Present
Porcine respiratory corona virus	Pigs	Never
Rabies	Dogs & other mammals	1923
Rift valley fever	Cattle, sheep & goats	Never
Rinderpest (otherwise known as cattle plague)	Cattle	1900
Scrapie	Sheep & goats	Present



Notifiable Disease

Notifiable Diseases	Species Occurrence	Last
Sheep pox	Sheep	1850
Sheep scab	Sheep	Present
Spongiform encephalopathy	Species other than cattle, sheep & goats. Only lab findings are notifiable	
Swine vesicular disease	Pigs	Never
Teschen disease	Pigs	Never
Transmissible gastro-enteritis	Pigs	Never
Trichinosis	Pigs	1979
Vesicular exanthema	Pigs	Never
Vesicular stomatitis	Cattle, pigs & horses	Never
Visna-Maedi complex	Sheep	1984
Warble fly infestation	Cattle, Deer & Horses	1996
<i>DISEASES OF POULTRY</i>		
Arizona disease	Poultry	Never
Avian Infectious laryngo-tracheitis	Poultry	Present
Avian influenza	Poultry	Never
Duck plague (herpes virus infection)	Poultry	Never
Duck septicaemia (anatipestifer infection)	Poultry	Never
Duck viral hepatitis	Poultry	Never
Fowl pox	Poultry	1964
Goose hepatitis	Geese	Never



Annex

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Notifiable Disease

Notifiable Diseases	Species Occurrence	Last
Newcastle disease	Poultry	1997
Ornithosis (including psittacosis)	Poultry	Present
Paramyxovirus 1 infection in pigeons	Pigeons	Present
Spongiform encephalopathy (lab findings only)	Only lab findings are notifiable	Never



Further Information on TB and BR

(Annex 1- References 1, 3, 7, & 8)

TB and BR are two notifiable diseases of cattle that are present in Northern Ireland, which have a major impact on cattle farming, and which can also infect humans.

All herdkeepers **MUST**:

- treat all cattle abortions and retained placentas (retained for more than 24 hours) as possible BR infection, and report them to the local Divisional Veterinary Office.
- immediately isolate the animal until it has been tested and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development has confirmed the result as negative for BR.
- dispose of foetus, and afterbirth hygienically and in accordance with the legislation. (Annex 1- Reference 3).
- ensure the welfare of the animal.
- **AT ALL TIMES**, obey animal movement regulations. They are there to protect you. Obey any restrictions on animal movements that are in place. Ensure all animals are identified in accordance with legal requirements, and records of breeding and movement are up to date at all times. Rapid traceability is important for effective disease control for both TB and BR, and also for other diseases.
- co-operate with scheduling of all TB and BR tests, as an aid to early detection and elimination of reactor animals so reducing the potential for spread within the herd. Failure to present animals for testing when required is an offence.



Further Information on TB and BR

(Annex 1- References 1, 3, 7, & 8)

- isolate reactor(s) and inconclusive animal(s) and animals reported to you as high risk, as required to do so by notice.
- not use milk from animals infected with BR for animal feeding unless it has been treated in accordance with a notice issued by the Department.
- not use milk from an animal, including non-bovines, which is infected or suspected of being infected (includes an inconclusive) with TB, for animal feeding unless it has been sterilized.
- maintain the fences dividing your premises from adjoining land in such condition as to prevent contact of your herd with neighbouring cattle and to prevent your herd from straying from your premises. This should be achieved with at least a 3-metre gap between neighbouring livestock.
- carry out pre-movement testing for BR (when the new BR Order is made). Until then, herdkeepers are strongly advised to carry out pre-movement testing.

Preventative measures should become part of your routine.

In addition all cattle owners **SHOULD**:

- maintain a closed herd, or where not possible, only purchase from a small number of reliable sources. Ask, **WHEN WAS THE HERD LAST TESTED CLEAR FOR TB AND BR?**



Annex

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Further Information on TB and BR

(Annex 1- References 1, 3, 7, & 8)

- use pre-movement testing for TB (requires the Divisional Veterinary Officer's permission. See Annex 2 for contact numbers).
- isolate any purchased breeding cattle, arrange a BR blood test (with your Veterinary Surgeon) and do not release the cattle from isolation until the test is clear. Bear in mind, however, that the reproductive status of the animal may affect the results of the test.
- fence off badger setts to prevent access by cattle. Avoid grazing fields which contain badger setts, if possible. Raise troughs and drinkers to prevent badgers getting access; prevent badger access to farm buildings, feed and feedstores (including silage pits).
- provide pasteurised milk for their own and their families' consumption, as both TB and BR can cause human disease, and have been transmitted via unpasteurised milk.

For more information on any of the above, please contact your local Divisional Veterinary Office, (See Annex 2 for contact numbers).



Useful Contact Numbers

Service Delivery Group

College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE)
Greenmount Campus
Antrim BT41 4PU
Tel: (028) 9442 6772
Fax: (028) 9442 6777

Agriculture Development Centre Phone / Fax Number	Agriculture Development Centre Phone / Fax Number
<p>Omagh ADC Sperrin House, Sedan Avenue Omagh, BT79 7AQ Tel: 8225 1020 Fax: 8225 3500</p>	<p>Downpatrick ADC Rathkeltair House Market Street, BT30 6LZ Tel: 4461 2211 Fax: 4461 8226</p>
<p>Magherafelt ADC 31 Station Road Magherafelt, BT44 5DN Tel: 7930 2112 Fax: 7930 2067</p>	<p>Ballymoney ADC Crown Buildings, John Street Ballymoney, BT53 6DS Tel: 2766 0160 Fax: 2766 0103</p>
<p>Newtownards ADC 2b Portaferry Road Newtownards, BT23 3NT Tel: 9181 3570 Fax: 9182 2106</p>	<p>Ballymena ADC Kilpatrick House, 38-54 High Street Ballymena, BT43 6DT Tel: 2566 2800 Fax: 2566 2838</p>
<p>Greenmount Campus 22 Greenmount Road Antrim, BT42 4PU Tel: 9442 6666 Fax: 9442 6606</p>	<p>Limavady ADC 4-6 Killane Road Limavady, BT49 0DS Tel: 7776 2521 Fax: 7776 8075</p>



Annex

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Useful Contact Numbers

Agriculture Development Centre Phone / Fax Number	Agriculture Development Centre Phone / Fax Number
Enniskillen ADC Inishkeen House Killyhevlin, BT74 4EJ Tel: 6632 5004 Fax: 6634 3000 Fax: 6632 4753	Dungannon ADC Crown Buildings, Thomas Street Dungannon, BT70 1HR Tel: 8775 4777 Fax: 8775 4888
Loughry Campus Cookstown, BT80 9AA Tel: 8676 8100 Fax: 8676 1043	Enniskillen Campus Levaghy Enniskillen, BT74 4GF Tel: 6634 4800 Fax: 6634 4888
Newry ADC 1 Cecil Street Newry, BT35 6AH Tel: 30253310 Fax: 30253311	Ballyclare ADC 18 The Square Ballyclare, BT39 9BB Tel: 9332 2399 Fax: 9335 4218
Armagh ADC 2 Newry Road Armagh, BT60 1EN Tel: 3751 5659 Fax: 3751 5611	



Biosecurity in the Pig and Poultry Industry

1. General points:

- (a) The presence of any large group of animals such as pigs or poultry, in intensive conditions, provides a large pool of susceptible animals. It is critical that diligence is exercised when such a unit is present on a farm, especially when the unit is part of a wider mixed farming operation. Pigs and poultry are susceptible to several important infections that can be transferred to humans. These include *Salmonella spp.* and in the case of poultry, *Campylobacter spp.*
- (b) The codes and assurance schemes provide specific advice which covers the importance of:
 - i. Careful cleansing and disinfection of units before stocking and re-stocking.
 - ii. Separation of the unit from other farm activity.
 - iii. Rigorous hygiene measures when entering and leaving the unit (eg. separate clothing and footwear).
 - iv. The need to ensure that all inputs such as feed, water and bedding are safe.

2. Codes of Practice and Assurance Schemes in the Poultry Industry

- i. **Code of Practice** for the control of Salmonella in commercial egg laying flocks*.
- ii. **Draft Code of Practice** for the control of Salmonellae in commercial broilers*.
- iii. Northern Ireland Poultry Health Assurance Scheme*.
- iv. Assured Chicken Production Quality assurance scheme#



Biosecurity in the Pig and Poultry Industry

3. Codes of Practice and Assurance Schemes in the Pig Industry:

- i. **Code of Practice** for the Prevention and Control of Salmonella in Pig Farms*.
- ii. Assured British Pigs Quality Assurance Scheme¥.

* Available from Animal Health Division
(See Annex 5 for contact details)

Available from:
Assured Chicken Production c/o CMI
Long Harborough Tel: 0199 3885 648
Oxford OX29 8LH Fax: 0199 3885 611

¥ Available from:
Assured British Pigs Tel: 0870 2416 787
EFSIS Agricultural Division
44 Winterhill Hse, Snowdon Drive,
Milton Keynes MK6 1AX



Useful Leaflets

1. *Botulism in cattle.*

Copies are available from Animal Health Division (See Annex 5 for contact details)

2. *Protecting you and your family from Brucellosis.*

Copies are available from HSENI (see Annex 5 for contact details)

3. *Common Zoonoses in Agriculture*

Copies are available from HSE Books (see Annex 5 for contact details)

4. *Cleaner farms, Better flocks*

Copies are available from the Food Standards Agency Publications (See Annex 5 for details)

5. *Dealing with Tuberculosis in your herd*

Copies are available from Divisional Veterinary Offices (See Annex 2 for contact details)

6. *Brucellosis: Stop it...*

Copies are available from Divisional Veterinary Offices (See Annex 2 for details)



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