

Quarantine Checklist

Quarantine is a period of isolation for new or traveling livestock when they first arrive or return to the farm. Quarantine policies are part of a basic farm biosecurity plan.

During this time, the animal acclimates to their environment and passes through the incubation and infectious period of most contagious diseases* without transmission to the recipient herd.

Helpful Tips

- Observe animals *before* they get on your trailer! Reject those that do not meet your requirements.
- Discuss pre-purchase surveillance testing options with your herd's veterinarian.
- Keep records of purchase dates, source, animal ID, treatments, and health observations.
- Bring new animals up to speed with your herd's vaccine and deworming schedule while they are in confinement.
- Have a plan for handling animals that fail your quarantine requirements.

Prepare: Principles of Separation Apply Before You Acquire the New Animal

- Minimize the number of sources you acquire animals from.
- Select animals from source herds of the same or higher health standards as yours.
- Confirm that all required movement documentation, animal identification, and health tests are complete *before* you take the animal.
- Avoid mixing animals from different sources during the quarantine period.

Implement: Design Your Quarantine Space

The quarantine *facility* should:

- Be secure and remote from your established herd and high-traffic areas of the farm. If this is not achievable, maintain at least a 6-foot buffer between holding areas.
- Meet the animals' needs for shelter and sanitation.
- Contain separate equipment for feeding and cleaning that is never used elsewhere.

- ☐ Only be used for this purpose, and easily cleaned and disinfected between uses.
- ☐ Have a disposal site nearby for waste hay, bedding, and manure separate from routine compost locations.

Implement: Design Your Quarantine Protocol

The quarantine *protocol* should:

- ☐ Require isolation of animals for a minimum of 14 days (28 days is preferable).
- ☐ Require daily observation of the animals. Monitor for signs of lethargy, lameness, coughing, nasal or ocular discharge, skin lesions, diarrhea, decreased feed intake, neurologic signs, death.
- ☐ Require caretakers to perform biosecurity steps, such as sanitizing boots and washing hands, on the way into and out of the quarantine area.
- ☐ Visit and care for the quarantine animals last.

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** Some important diseases have a long incubation phase or an asymptomatic carrier phase. Consider partnering with your herd veterinarian to implement screening tests for these diseases in prospective herd additions.*

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