

BIOSECURITY ADVICE FOR VISITS TO FARM PREMISES BY OFFICIALS

This advice note explains the measures to take when visiting arable farms and premises where livestock are kept, including poultry. 'Biosecurity' means a series of measures and protocols designed to prevent potentially harmful biological agents (horticultural, animal or zoonotic) from entering or leaving a property. Any visitors to farm premises who fail to carry out appropriate biosecurity measures on entering and leaving run the risk of spreading plant or animal diseases to or from that premises.

Where appropriate and practicable, farm visits should be made following prior contact with the owner or farm manager. Take the opportunity to check what biosecurity arrangements (if any) are in place, whether you may use them and the arrangements for parking. Wherever possible park vehicles off farm. If there is no alternative vehicles taken onto a farm should be parked on hard standing away from livestock.

In the absence of any notifiable animal disease or plant health disease, protective clothing is not necessary other than suitable footwear that can be washed and where necessary disinfected. Everyone entering and leaving premises should ensure their footwear is clean. This applies even if you do not expect to come into contact with animals or their products. Make use of any facilities provided and ensure, before and after the visit, that there is no manure or other animal product to be seen on footwear, other clothing, vehicle or anything else taken with you.

During an outbreak of a notifiable disease only **essential visits** should be made to livestock premises in areas where restrictions have been imposed. It would be best to seek further details of the actual disease, any Health and Safety advice and the actual terms of any additional controls and restrictions.

If the visit is unavoidable then more stringent biosecurity measures are necessary. Where only the residential part of the premises is accessed, for example posting an advice leaflet, and there are no obvious signs of animals manure, including poultry droppings, follow the advice above.

For all other visits use a Defra approved disinfectant before entering and after leaving the premises and avoid any contact with the animals.

Full advice and instructions on Biosecurity can be found on the Defra website http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/diseases/pdf/biosecurity_guidance.pdf

In a disease outbreak further information will be available on our website www.tradingstandards.gov.uk/kent or via Emergency Planning