



Zoonoses on farms – checklist

This checklist has been developed to help minimise the risks to workers that may be exposed to zoonoses at work.

Zoonoses are diseases of animals that can cause serious illness or death in people. The hazards and risks vary with the type and condition of animals, the nature of the work being done and the levels of training, instruction and supervision of workers.

Controls for potentially exposed workers

- Workers are provided information on zoonoses, and trained in safe work procedures and the identification of symptoms and treatment for particular diseases to minimise infection risk

- Q fever vaccination program is implemented for at-risk workplaces

- Workers who may be exposed to Q fever are tested (blood and skin) for immunity and vaccinated at no cost to the worker if not immune

- Workers are offered vaccinations for other zoonoses at no cost to the worker on a risk basis

- Workers are provided appropriate personal protective equipment, as needed based on risk, at no cost to the worker (e.g. work boots, work clothes, gloves, aprons, glasses and masks)

- Facilities are available for cleaning and laundering contaminated clothing

- Suitable facilities are provided for hand washing and drying

- Workers are instructed to wash their hands after handling animals, machinery or equipment and before handling food and drink

- Workers are instructed to ensure cuts and abrasions are treated immediately and covered with water-resistant dressings

- Contact with animals, animal body fluids, carcasses, blood or tissues is minimised

- Information about workplace zoonoses is clearly displayed, including instruction not to drink unpasteurised milk, where applicable

- Procedures are in place to notify the regulator if a worker contracts a zoonosis

Biosecurity controls (animal disease control)

- Systems are in place to manage zoonoses risks in all workers (e.g. contractors, labour hire workers) and visitors

- Procedures are in place for cleaning and disinfecting work spaces, floors, benches and equipment

- Potentially infectious material (e.g. placenta and litter) is disposed of in a safe and hygienic way, such as incineration

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- Ventilation systems are designed to prevent contaminated material from the outlet being drawn back in by the intake

 - Local exhaust ventilation used in areas known to have airborne dust/mist

 - Machinery (preferably with an enclosed cab) is used to clear manure and feed waste build-up in areas where animals are regularly kept or moved

 - Sick animals are treated and isolated

 - Pigs and cattle are kept separated

 - Animal holding pens and farm areas have good drainage and hygienic disposal of animal effluent

 - Mesh floors are used in pig pens, where possible

 - A rodent control program is in place

 - Pets are dewormed

 - Livestock and pets are vaccinated (e.g. brucellosis in cattle)
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