

On Alert in the United States

All states and the USDA's Veterinary Services are on heightened alert to investigate possible cases of foreign animal disease. Livestock owners, hunters and veterinarians are urged to report signs of illness to their local veterinarian.

USDA Veterinary Services Office
402-434-2300

**Nebraska Department of Agriculture,
Animal and Plant Health Protection**
402-471-2351

Welcoming International Visitors

Follow these additional precautions:

- Provide visitors with clean clothing, which they can wear after showering.
- Wash or dry clean your visitors' clothes immediately.
- Provide shoes, or insist your visitor wear shoes, which have not been worn on a ranch in another country.
- Disinfect visitors' jewelry, eyeglasses, etc., or do not permit these items to enter livestock facilities.
- Never allow meat or animal products from animal disease-affected countries on your premises.

When in doubt, keep international visitors out!



**Nebraska Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Protection**

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Preventing the Spread of Disease in Livestock

Advice for International Travelers,
Visitors, Livestock Producers
and Allied Industries



Use strict biosecurity measures to reduce the chances of an infectious disease being carried into your farm by people who have recently traveled abroad.

Follow these guidelines if you are planning foreign travel. Make sure your international visitors follow this protocol, as well.



Before Returning to the US

For at least five days before you travel back to the United States, do not visit farms, sale barns, zoos, fairs or other sites where livestock are kept.

Animals affected by, or even exposed to, highly contagious diseases like foot-and-mouth disease can expel the virus as they exhale. By being in close proximity, you could breathe it in. Although it is not a danger to you, the virus can live in your throat or nasal passages for an extended period of time.

Bathe and shower prior to travel. Wear clean clothes which have not been near livestock, wildlife or other animals.

Live, airborne viruses can contaminate skin, clothing and hair. Bathing and wearing fresh clothing prior to travel lessens the risk of carrying the virus with you.

Disinfect before you travel to the United States! Before traveling, use a disinfectant and a small cloth to wipe down glasses, jewelry, watches, belts, hats, cell phones, hearing aids, camera bags, backpacks and purses before traveling.

Disinfectant foams, sprays and gels, such as hand sanitizers and sprayers, are effective anti-virals. Wipe down all items which may have been exposed to airborne viruses.

Scrape away mud, debris and soil from shoes. Use a disinfectant on all shoe surfaces.

Viruses can live in the soil, organic material and mud for an extended period of time. Clean shoes reduce risk.

If possible, wash or dry clean all clothing, including jackets, before traveling to the United States, especially if you live on a ranch. If this is not practical, clean your clothing as soon as possible when you return home. Do not re-wear clothing before it is washed or cleaned.

Live animal disease viruses can contaminate clothing. Do not risk exposing U.S. livestock or wildlife to disease by wearing clothes which have not been washed or cleaned. Remember to clean jackets, gloves and scarves.

Do not carry food or other prohibited items to the United States.

Aside from being illegal, meat, unpasteurized cheese and unprocessed hides or animal products can harbor live viruses.

Biosecurity Tip: Include a section in your farm's biosecurity plan related to overseas travel. Use your plan, review it often and update it when needed.

Upon Arrival in the US

Make a Customs declaration if you are carrying food products or if you have visited a farm or ranch on your trip.

By declaring food products, Customs or U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) officials can properly dispose of them if necessary. Failure to declare items can result in fines.

If you have been on a ranch, visited a zoo, wildlife park or other site housing animals, make a declaration. It takes only a few moments to have the port officials spray your boots to protect against disease.

When You Get Home

Avoid livestock and wildlife at least five days after arriving in the United States.

It takes time for airborne viruses to be cleared from your throat and nasal passages. Do not take chances.

If you did not wash or dry clean clothing before traveling to the United States, do it immediately upon returning home.

Airborne viruses could have contaminated your clothing.