

Sheep biosecurity

Problem: the term biosecurity means all those prevention practices aimed precisely at preventing the introduction, development and spread of disease-causing agents.

The aim is therefore to guarantee the safety of products of animal origin, to preserve the public health of consumers, and the prevention of diseases affecting animals.

To do this, it is necessary to take measures within the farm that are able to avoid the introduction and spread of the disease, but also to prevent any diseases from spreading outside the farm.

Infectious agents can be transmitted from any animal, person or equipment that enters the farm. It is therefore the responsibility of the farmer, together with all the staff he collaborates with, to prepare effective biosecurity plans.

These plans include organizational, operational and managerial programs, the study of the farm structure, disinfection, pest control and prophylaxis plans with the aim of contributing to the maximum productivity and maximum profit of the company.

Biosecurity measures can be grouped into 15 areas (as proposed in the guidelines manual for risk categorization in farms developed in the Classyfarm checklist): 1) weed species (rodents, insects, birds), 2) wild animals, 3) pets, 4) control and prevention of infectious diseases, 5) health monitoring activities, 6) control and prevention of breast infections, 7) control and prevention of endo / ecto parasitosis, 8) entry of strangers, 9) regular visitors, 10) vehicles , 11) carcass collection, 12) loading of live animals, 13) purchase and / or movement of animals outside the farm, 14) quarantine and 15) supply of water sources

Solutions: Biosecurity is implemented in three stages: the bio pathogen must not enter, the bio pathogen must not circulate or spread on the farm and finally the bio pathogen must not leave the farm.

To make this happen, specific and written plans are needed to prevent the various ways of entry of pathogens; Adequate prevention measures must be set up, after which the presence of the disease is promptly recognized and, finally, adequate control and eradication measures are rapidly applied.

Practical recommendations:

- ensure the hygiene of the housing for livestock;
- implement pest elimination programs at the right times;
- arrange fences that avoid contact with wild animals;
- have a clear subdivision of the relaying areas of the various species of farmed animals;
- guarantee the control of the sanitary status of any companion animals on the farm;
- carry out microbiological investigations on organic material for mammary infections and other diseases on the farm in order to undertake the appropriate prophylaxis;
- avoid the entry of strangers into the company, or in any case, keep track of them in the register;
- make sure that the personnel entering the farm are equipped with shoes, gowns and gloves;
- avoid that the vehicles come into direct contact with the animals and that there is a pre-loading area of 20 meters from the farm;
- carry out periodic analyzes of the water sources from which it is drawn.