Biosecurity Protocols Stats and Facts

FACTS

1. Biosecurity can be defined as the application of measures aimed to reduce the probability of the introduction (external biosecurity) and further spread of pathogens within the farm (internal biosecurity).
2. For the effective design of a biosecurity program, farmers must know how diseases are transmitted, the risks and their importance, which mitigation measures are thought to be more effective and how to evaluate the biosecurity and its improvements.
3. Vehicles used to transport animals between farms or to the slaughterhouse and drivers from these vehicles can have an important role in the transmission of pathogens between farms, as it has been described elsewhere.
4. Animals, animal products, and/or animal secretions (including manure and urine) most often spread infectious diseases between animals or herds. New animals entering a herd or flock or direct contact with infected animals are the most likely ways to introduce disease to an uninfected herd.

STATS

- In 2017, 59 outbreaks of enteric disease associated with animal contact were reported, resulting in 1,518 illnesses, 312 hospitalizations, and 3 deaths.
- Cryptosporidium was the most common cause of confirmed, single-etiology outbreaks, accounting for 21 outbreaks (41%), 158 illnesses, and 6 hospitalizations.
- Salmonella was the second leading cause of confirmed, single-etiology outbreaks with 18 (35%); these outbreaks resulted in the most outbreak associated-illnesses (1,237 illnesses, 84%), hospitalizations (286, 92%), and deaths (2, 67%).
- Livestock (25 outbreaks) and poultry (15) were the most common types of animals implicated. The most outbreak-associated illnesses were from contact with poultry (1,149 illnesses), livestock (132), and reptiles (89).
- Farms or dairies (11 outbreaks, 30%) were the most commonly reported setting among outbreaks with a single location of exposure, followed by private homes (10 outbreaks, 27%).