



Herd Health Management for Exporters

Herd health management is a critical component for successful export sales. The disease status of a herd is maintained by managing the risks of **diseases entering and spreading** within the herd and the balance between **immunity and control** measures. The main infectious diseases of concern for export include: Brucellosis, Tuberculosis, Leukosis, Johne's Disease, Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis (IBR) and Bovine Viral Diarrhea (BVD). Canada is free from Blue Tongue but testing is required for many countries. Canada's national cattle herd was declared brucellosis-free on September 19, 1985. Herds must be free from Brucellosis, Tuberculosis, and Enzootic Bovine Leukosis (E.B.L.) for the Canada Health Accredited Herd (CHAH) Program. See Appendix A for details on CHAH-E.B.L. accreditation and maintenance.

Import health requirements vary from country to country. Animal testing for the various diseases can span over a number of months. The breeder must obtain a certificate from a Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) veterinary inspector or a certificate from an accredited veterinarian who has been endorsed by a CFIA veterinary inspector. The certificate identifies that the animal has been inspected and found to be free from any communicable diseases; the date and place of inspection and where & what tests have been performed and that the animal has proved to be negative to such tests. The following conditions may cause animals to be refused entry by the importing country:

- Dermatitis
- Warts
- Vaginal discharge
- Mastitis
- Omphalophlebitis
- Blindness
- Recent dehorning
- Ringworm
- Lice
- Diarrhea
- Lameness
- Hernia
- Muscle Conditions
- Possibility of parturition during transport

Other health attributes that a breeder might consider are Somatic Cell Count (SCC) i.e. Herd of Origin has a maximum SCC of....? or Premises of Origin has not had rabies in the last year.

The objective of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's (CFIA's) Animal Health Export Program is to ensure that only healthy animals and animal products that meet the import health requirements of an importing country are exported from Canada, and, in the case of live animals, that they are transported in a humane manner.

Example of Health Certificate Requirements:

European Union Basic Requirements for Domestic Bovine for Breeding:

- Herd is free from brucellosis (42 days), anthrax (30 days) & Rabies (6 months)
- BSE – require traceability – permanent ID, born after date of ban on feeding meat and bone meal derived from ruminants.
- Country free from foot & mouth disease, blue tongue
- Have remained in Canada since birth or at least 60 days before dispatch to the EU
- Come from herds recognized officially as leucosis free or are less than 6 months of age or tested negative within 30 days of dispatch to the EU.
- No clinical or pathological evidence of infectious bovine rhinotracheitis (IBR) recorded in the herd of origin for the last 12 months; quarantined for the 30 days prior to dispatch and tested negative for IBR at least 21 days after entry into quarantine; not vaccinated against IBR.

Veterinary Inspectors in the East-Central Ontario area are in two locations:

Peterborough

163 Simcoe Street
Peterborough, Ontario
K9H 2H6
Telephone: 705-742-6917
Facsimile: 705-742-8676

Port Perry

60 Van Edward Drive, Unit 6
Port Perry, Ontario
L9L 1G3
Telephone: 905-985-1870
Facsimile: 905-985-8915

Current CFIA Fees for the Certification of Export Certificates can be found on the CFIA website:

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca>

In addition to the Herd Health Best Management Checklist – Appendix B, breeders may refer to:

1. Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Dairy Cattle – National Farm Animal Care Council. It is available from Dairy Farmers of Canada. Telephone: 613-236-9997 Website: www.dairygoodness.ca
2. Biosecurity for Canadian Dairy Farms National Standard – CFIA. To be available early in 2013 with the Producer Planning Guide. Growing Forward II will be available in April 2013 to implement practices and protocols.
3. Canadian Quality Milk On-Farm Food Safety Program Reference Manual – Dairy Farmers of Canada. June 2010. Website: <http://www.dairyinfo.gc.ca/pdf/referencemanual.pdf>

Appendix B

Herd Health Best Management Practices Checklist To Help Prevent Infectious Diseases

VISITORS	
	Disinfect boots before and after visit or provide plastic boots
	Wear clean clothes
	Signage with biosecurity protocols
HERD HEALTH	
	Vaccination
	Testing
	Quarantine arriving animals
	Segregation of infected and sick animals
	Culling of chronically infected animals
	Pest control practices used (flies, rodents, birds)
	Individual plastic palpation sleeves and individual needles
CALF MANAGEMENT	
	Vaccination of dry cows and bred heifers when combined with good colostrum management
	Calve in clean pen, remove calf as soon as possible
	House individually, isolated from adults in well-ventilated area
	Colostrum: Feed 4 quarts of good quality colostrum from test-negative cow within 6 hours
	Dip navel in 7% tincture of iodine
	Clean and disinfect feeding equipment daily
	Feed milk replacer or pasteurized milk
	Feed a coccidiostat
FEED MANAGEMENT	
	Dedicated feeding equipment
	Disposal of feed refusals from adult cattle
MANURE MANAGEMENT	
	Pens kept clean
	Maternity pens kept clean
	Maternity and young stock areas at a distance from manure storage areas
MILKING MANAGEMENT	
	Milkers use good milking practices
	Teats are dipped after milking
	Dry cow treatment given at dry-off
	Regular maintenance of milking equipment
	Keep accurate and detailed animal health records
	Provide staff training on herd health management practices

Excerpt from Healthy Cows for a Healthy Industry: University of Wisconsin-Madison: Michelle Wieghart, Ph.D.

It is also recommended that animals be halter broken. This provides ease of showing the animal to buyers as well as aiding in handling during transport.