

Dairy Farm Security Fact Sheet

The continued safety and security of the U.S. milk supply is the highest priority for America's dairy farmers and dairy food companies. The dairy industry works with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and other government agencies to evaluate and safeguard the milk supply from potential threats. And we hold joint trainings and exercises to test our emergency response plans.

On dairy farms, farmers closely monitor their herds to ensure each animal's health and well-being. Many have implemented the industry's recommended measures for security (physical protection of people, animals, equipment, and property) and biosecurity (protection of people and animals against the introduction and spread and disease and toxins). These measures include:

Employees and Visitors

Dairy farm owners carefully screen job applicants and conduct background checks. Records are kept of visitors, to whom access is limited and supervised. Visitors must park on paved or hard-surfaced areas away from production and animal-handling sites. People who have been outside the continental U.S. within the past two weeks are not allowed to visit.

Animal Security

To protect the cows, new animals are purchased from healthy herds. The health status of each animal is checked before it is introduced to other animals in the herd.

Buildings and Grounds

Fences, gates, security lighting and alarms protect farm buildings and grounds. Typically dairy farms have a single entrance and exit for the farm with the farm name and contact number posted.

Importantly, access is restricted to areas where milk, feed, farm chemicals, and animal health products are stored. For example, sealing and locking systems are in place on all milk storage tanks.

Dairy Plants

Dairy companies have a variety of precautions in place to maintain a secure milk supply including secured entry systems, employee screening programs and restricted access on the plant floor. Milk tankers are sealed so that any unauthorized opening of a tanker is immediately evident. In addition, packaging operations are automated, enclosed and secure.

For more information, contact National Milk Producers Federation (www.nmpf.org) or Dairy Management Inc.™ (www.dairycheckoff.com).