



FACT SHEET

DAIRY FARM SECURITY



The continued safety and security of the U.S. milk supply is the highest priority for dairy farmers and dairy food companies.

The dairy industry works with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and other government agencies to evaluate and safeguard the milk supply from potential threats. Dairy MAX holds trainings and exercises to test our emergency response plans so your family can feel confident about purchasing dairy products.

Dairy farmers closely monitor their herds to ensure each animal's health and well-being. An important part of this effort is following industry-recommended measures for security (physical protection of people, animals, equipment and property) and biosecurity (protection of people and animals against the introduction and spread of disease and toxins).

THESE MEASURES FOR SECURITY INCLUDE:

Employees and Visitors

To ensure animals are handled by the proper individuals, dairy farm owners carefully screen job applicants and conduct background checks. It is also important for dairy farmers to keep record of visitors, to whom access is limited and supervised. Dairy farms are businesses that use large equipment like tractors and feed trucks, so visiting a farm unannounced or going in unauthorized areas during a tour could result in injury. If visiting a dairy farm, you might be asked to park in areas away from animal handling sites or to wear closed-toe shoes with plastic covers to limit spread of disease and toxins coming onto the farm. People who have been outside the continental U.S. within the past two weeks are not allowed to visit.

Animal Security

New animals are purchased from healthy herds to help farmers protect their cows. The health status of each animal is checked before it is introduced to other animals in the herd. To keep animals healthy, it is recommended for visitors to avoid touching animals and to wash their hands before and after visiting a farm.

Buildings and Ground

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. Always follow posted signs and contact the farm owner before entering the property. Access is restricted to areas where milk, feed, farm chemicals and animal health products are stored.

Dairy Plants

Dairy companies have a variety of precautions in place to maintain a secure milk supply including secured entry systems, perimeter fencing around the facility, 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.

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