

Q-Fever Herd Management Plan

The purpose of this herd plan is to outline appropriate actions and management practices to protect public health by reducing exposure to Coxiella burnetii (the bacteria that causes Q fever), to educate potentially exposed persons regarding Q fever transmission, to limit the spread of Coxiella burnetii in Herd Owner's livestock, and to detect suspect animals as soon as possible. This herd plan is voluntary, is subject to review and revision, and is not intended to represent a legal contract. These management practices are necessary to protect public health and animal health and it is the responsibility of the Herd Owner to comply with these standards.

Reference Number:	
Ranch Name:	
Owner Name:	
Address:	
City, State, Zip:	
Mailing Address:	
Phone:	
Email:	
PIN:	
Manager:	
Other Information:	

Herd Owner Agrees To:

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES:

- The highest risk for human illness is due to contact with contaminated birth products (e.g., placentas, fetuses, amniotic fluids). Birth products and soiled bedding materials should be immediately removed using gloves, placed in a sealed, double-bagged trash bag, and disposed of by incinerating or burying. If composted, keep in an area well away from people and animals for several weeks followed by turning the exposed surface inwards and allowing it to heat up for several more weeks. After stacking and composting for as long as possible, it may be spread on land used for livestock and crops.

- Manure should be composted as described above. Do not sell manure to the public or use in garden areas.
- The birthing area should be immediately cleaned using a 1:10 dilution of household bleach plus detergent, a 5% solution of hydrogen peroxide or a 1:100 dilution of Lysol. A 30 minute contact time is recommended for all disinfection agents.
- Avoid cleaning out buildings and moving soiled bedding on windy days. If using a high pressure hose after mucking out, dampen down first using a low pressure spray to decrease production of fine aerosols.
- Practice good rodent control; keep dogs and cats away from birth products.
- Control ticks on livestock.
- Limit visitors' access into the livestock holding areas or barns unless necessary.
- Visitors at high risk for severe Q fever illness (e.g. pregnant women, immunosuppressed persons, and persons with heart valve defects) should not be allowed access into the livestock holding areas or barns.
- Pregnant animals or animals that have given birth within 2 weeks should not be moved off of the farm.
- Consumption of only pasteurized dairy products is recommended.
- Hands and arms should be washed thoroughly after animal contact.
- Clothing worn in livestock holding areas or barns should be removed immediately after leaving the areas and washed in hot water using any commercial laundry product. Boots should be cleaned and disinfected or disposable boot covers should be used.

ANIMAL RECORDS:

- Maintain a detailed registry which should record all livestock on the premises and history of APEs; this registry should be updated whenever an animal is bought or sold. Sales records of individuals who purchase or lease livestock from you including names, addresses, date of transaction and animal sold should also be maintained.

ANIMAL MOVEMENTS:

- Adhere to Animal Health regulations when buying, selling, importing, and exporting sheep &/or goats. If animals are obtained from out of state, this shall include obtaining a health certificate, import permit, and meeting any additional requirements specific to the species being imported.
- Learn the health history of newly purchased animals, particularly history of recent APEs. Consider Q fever testing of newly purchased animals, followed by segregation from the rest of your herd for 30 days, and then retesting prior to commingling with your established herd.

SURVEILLANCE/TESTING:

- Q fever is not uncommon in livestock and animal testing has limitations; therefore culling of animals based on serologic (blood) testing is not recommended as this will NOT ensure a negative herd. A positive Q fever blood test does not mean that the animal is actively shedding the bacteria and a negative Q fever blood test does not mean the animal is *not* currently shedding the bacteria. Blood tests reflect the level of past exposure at the herd level and should not be used to determine the fate of individual animals.
- MDOL encourages all herd/flock owners to establish a relationship with a local veterinarian for animal health management.
- Contact your local veterinarian and the Montana Department of Livestock regarding Q fever testing if an adverse pregnancy event (APE) occurs in your herd. An APE is defined as an abortion, stillbirth, or birth of a weak newborn. The criteria for notification of these events in herds with >100 animals is higher than 5% of pregnant animals. For herds with ≤100 animals, a criteria of ≥1 events in a 60 day period applies.
- Q-Fever is a reportable and quarantinable disease in Montana as per ARM 32.3.104 that you are legally obligated to report in Montana per MCA 81-2-107. If you suspect you are experiencing additional illness in your herd or flock due to Q fever, immediately provide notice to your local veterinarian and MDOL.
- If an animal on your farm experiences an APE that has been confirmed as due to Q fever, immediately contact the Montana DPHHS to inform them of potentially exposed visitors to your farm.

EDUCATION:

- All persons who purchase/lease livestock from you or allow their livestock to board at your farm should be informed of the potential risk of Q fever transmission from livestock and of existing educational material available (ie: Q Fever Information and CDC Q Fever FAQ Sheet).
- Any visitor to your farm that develops an unexplained illness with fever should be informed of the risk of Q fever transmission from livestock.

Term of this herd plan agreement: M/D/Y **thru** M/D/Y.

This herd plan is intended to be dynamic and subject to review and revision. This plan will be reviewed at least on annual basis and as risk, change in operations or other factors evolve, modifications may be made upon agreement between the Herd Owner and the Montana Department of Livestock. All signing parties must agree upon any changes to this plan.

Herd Plan reviewed and agreed upon by:

Montana State Veterinarian or designee

Date

Herd Owner

Date

SPECIES/BREED	NUMBER	ANIMAL USE/COMMENTS	NUMBER OF BREEDING FEMALES	TIME OF YEAR BREEDING FEMALES BIRTH (e.g. spring, March-May, year round)