

Beef Biosecurity Workshop Farm Case Study

This fictional farm example will illustrate how some of the key biosecurity points outlined in the National Biosecurity Standards relate to real life situations.

Farm Management and Lay-out:

John and Jane Smith have a 100 acre home farm where they keep a 45-head beef cow herd and 250 acres across the road that they cash crop. They rent an additional 200 acres of cash crop land. The cows calve in the calving yard and are then moved to pasture. They sell the calves at the sale barn in late fall. John has implemented a rotational grazing program and all winter feed and bedding for the cow herd is produced on the farm.

John and Jane have two sons; one is 14 and the other 12. Both are very active in several 4-H clubs and show their steers at local fairs. John works full-time on the farm. Jane is an elementary school teacher.

Their neighbors to the North and West are cash croppers whereas the farm on the East side of their property is a mixed farm with a small flock of sheep, an apiary and an on-farm market selling fruits and vegetables in season as well as their honey.

The home farm has two laneways, one to the house and one with direct access to the barn, feed storage, manure and deadstock areas. There is designated parking at the house. It is not signed but it is gravelled and very distinctive as a parking area. The Smiths all have footwear that is designated for farm wear only; it never leaves the farm and is kept in the mudroom at back entrance to the house. See the farm layout diagram on the following page.

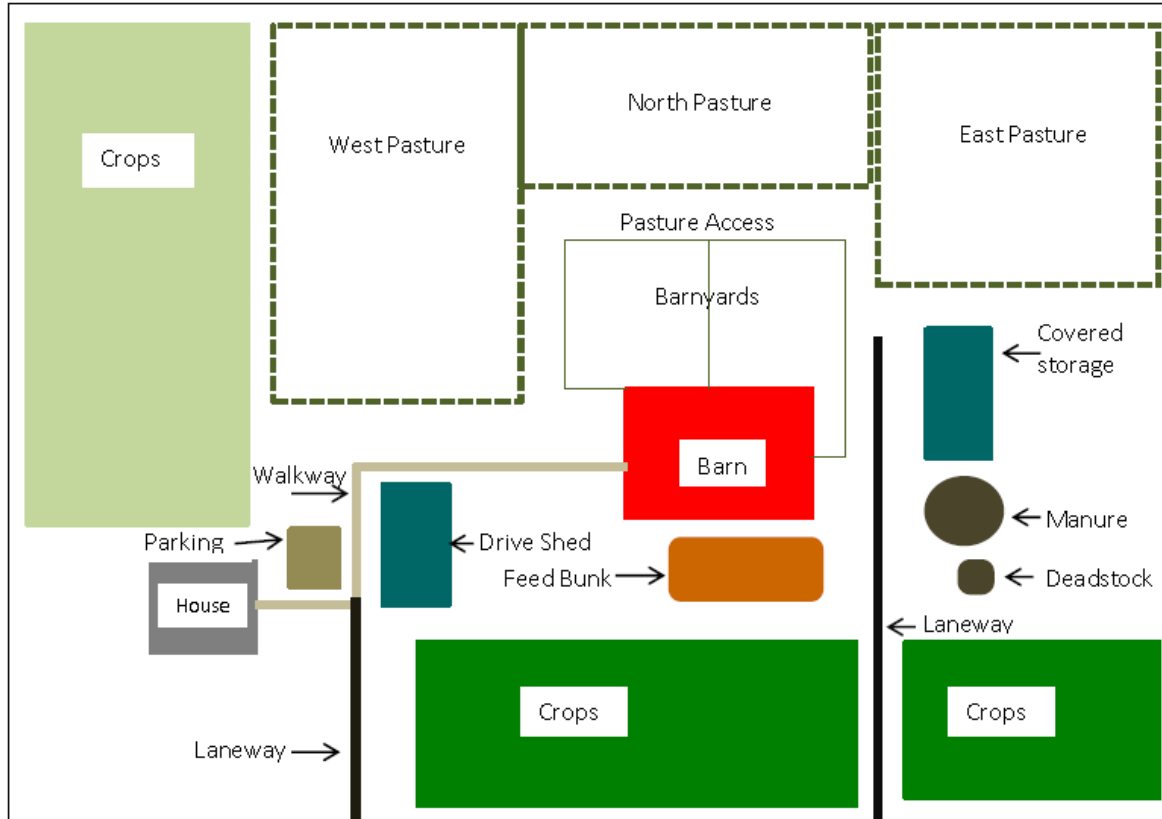
John and Jane are very diligent in maintaining good herd health records and record all vaccinations, medication, breeding, calving, and mortalities.

Issue for Consideration:

The Smiths sons have asked if their 4-H club could come to their farm to talk about rotational grazing and see what John has been doing over the past couple of years to improve the pastures. There will be approximately 12 club members as well as two leaders all of whom live on beef farms, some have other livestock as well.

Refer to questions on page three.

Diagram of Farm Layout



Farm Case Study Questions

In many cases, there is no single correct answer. The choice of action may depend on several factors, and what is practical and achievable under the circumstances.

1. Where and by what methods might this farm establish their CAZ, RAZ and CAPs? How does this relate to access by the 4-H club and other visitors?
2. What are some biosecurity concerns that the Smiths might have in allowing the 4-H club to visit their farm? List at least **three**.
3. Identify **three** controls that the Smiths could put in place to help address these biosecurity risks.
4. What is this farm doing that would be considered good biosecurity practices? List at least **three**.