BioSecure
Enhanced and cost-effective biosecurity in livestock production

UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN

PRACTICE ABSTRACT # 30

Increased biosecurity awareness through stable school attendance

The objective of this study was to let farming school students develop improved understanding and implementation of biosecurity measures in their training farms.

Biosecurity knowledge and belief in own ability to improve biosecurity on dairy farms increased for six farming school students attending a 1-year stable school.

The stable school served as the students' safe learning environment for exchange of knowledge and for empowernment of the students.

The stable school concept is an adapted version of the farmer field school approach. A group of six farming school students worked under the overall "biosecurity and animal health" theme, but every student chose their farm-specific focus area. The group met monthly with two veterinary facilitators in each other's farms to exchange experiences and insights related to the chosen focus areas.

Concerning engagement in the stable school and learning from each other, the students stated: "*You put yourself in each other's shoes and approach it positively*" and "*Everyone contributes with something good and positive*".

All students considered the suggestions from the other students as either implemented or having raised their awareness of some of the suggested measures.

Students increased their belief in own ability to improve biosecurity on farms. Before the stable school, students agreed they could suggest changes on the farm, but that implementation depended on the farm owner's prioritisation.

After the stable school, all students felt capable of contributing to biosecurity improvements on-farm and had already implemented changes through stronger arguments and better dialogue with the farmer and coworkers.



Stable schools may serve as a valuable tool to increase biosecurity awareness of farmers and farm employees.

Farm school students are cabable of contributing to better biosecurity on farms.

Engagement in a group and working from the individuals' starting point were considered important for develoing biosecurity awareness.

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