BioSecure
Enhanced and cost-effective biosecurity in livestock production

SWEDISH VETERINARY AGENCY

PRACTICE ABSTRACT # 33

Community-based biosecurity

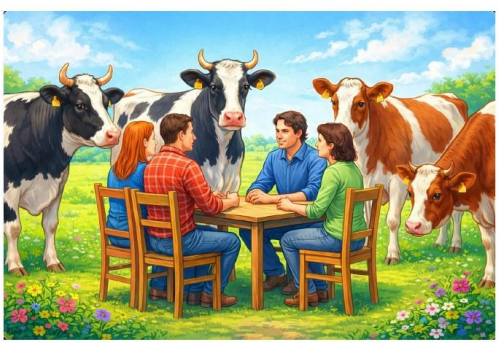
Objectives and method: This pilot project aimed to develop and test a community-based, locally anchored approach to strengthen biosecurity practices among cattle farms.

The objective was to move beyond farm level advice and instead address shared infection risks through structured collaboration facilitated by local veterinarians.

Five farmer groups participated for approximately 1.5 years. Each group conducted local risk mapping, set shared priorities, and met regularly with a facilitating veterinarian.

Key outcomes include:

- Farmers showed high baseline knowledge but lacked safe, structured forums for discussing infections.
- The facilitated group format reduced stigma, increased openness, and enabled rapid information sharing between neighbouring farms.
- Participants implemented practical on farm improvements, including revised hygiene routines, adjusted animal flows, strengthened visitor management, and grazing plans informed by antibody status.
- Several farms chose to stop purchasing animals after joint discussions on risk.
- The involvement of an engaged local veterinarian, combined with clear agendas and dedicated meeting time, was essential for deeper dialogue and collective problem solving.
- Peer support and local relevance were strong drivers of sustained behavioural change.



- Use group based advisory formats
- Adopt a facilitative role
- Actively address infection-related stigma
- Leverage peer to peer dynamics
- Maintain continuity between meetings
- Focus on locally relevant, actionable

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