BioSecure
Enhanced and cost-effective biosecurity in livestock production

Estonian University of Life Sciences

PRACTICE ABSTRACT # 42

Strengthening dairy farm biosecurity through a veterinary advisory network

Biosecurity (BS) is a key tool to prevent infectious diseases, reduce antimicrobial use (AMU) and improve herd performance in dairy farming.

To strengthen practical biosecurity implementation, **a network-based intervention was carried out** in the dairy cattle sector, building on a group of veterinarians previously trained and certified as herd health and biosecurity consultants with government support. The **intervention combined targeted advisory support** with **peer-to-peer learning**. Veterinary consultants first participated in a practical seminar focused on developing farm-specific biosecurity plans and reflecting on their own approaches to advisory work. They then provided **tailored, on-site advice** to selected dairy farms, including farms that had previously completed a Biocheck.Ugent assessment. This allowed concrete gaps to be identified and practical improvements to be implemented step by step.

Participating farmers also took part in **moderated workshops** where they **exchanged experiences, discussed challenges and shared practical solutions**. This peer-to-peer learning process strengthened motivation and encouraged long-term changes in daily management practices.

The impact of the intervention was assessed through changes in attitudes and behaviour among both farmers and veterinary consultants.

The results demonstrate that strengthening cooperation between trained advisors and farmers through a structured network approach can support measurable and sustainable improvements in dairy farm biosecurity.



- A structured veterinary advisory network successfully supported dairy farms in implementing practical, farm-specific biosecurity improvements.
- Combining on-site veterinary guidance with peer-to-peer farmer workshops strengthened motivation and promoted lasting changes in attitudes and daily management practices.

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