

MODULE 13

Biosecurity management

MANAGER MODULE



Biosecurity is management practices used to prevent the entry of disease-causing agents and, therefore, protects the health of the herd as well as the quality of the end product produced for the consumer. Biocontainment, on the other hand, is management practices used to prevent the spread of disease between groups of animals on a dairy farm.

During this course, students will assess the biosecurity status of the farm they work on, which will help them to identify the most prominent areas that require attention to ultimately formulate an official biosecurity plan with implementation procedures. Being able to recognise and understand all aspects of potential biosecurity breaches is essential to managing a successful biosecurity programme. There are various risks associated with dairy, and the cost of disease must be taken into account in order to improve the profitability of the dairy farm. A structured vaccination programme, as well as the training of employees regarding crucial biosecurity measures, will contribute to maintaining a healthy herd.

NQF Level 5



Knowledge

- The state of biosecurity in South Africa
- Risks associated with dairy and the cost of disease
- Basics of biosecurity regarding animals, people and programmes
- Assessment of a farm's biosecurity status
- Development of a biosecurity plan



Practical skills

- Identify and manage biosecurity risks associated with dairy
- Implement biosecurity measures regarding animals, people and programmes
- Assess the biosecurity status
- Implement and manage measures to improve biosecurity
- Develop a biosecurity plan



Work experience

- Assist with and observe biosecurity management on a dairy farm for a period of two weeks
- Perform biosecurity management activities on a dairy farm under supervision for a period of a month
- Manage biosecurity on a dairy farm under normal supervisory and management conditions for a period of one month

The person will be expected to engage in the following management activities and report at meetings:

- Identifying various risks in the dairy sector
- Isolating new animals
- Testing for diseases
- Developing an immunisation programme
- Assessing the dairy farm's biosecurity status
- Developing a biosecurity plan

