



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

P.O. Box 42560 • Olympia, Washington 98504-2560 • (360) 902-1800

Q-Fever Herd Management Plan

The purpose of this herd plan is to outline appropriate actions and management practices to protect public health by reducing exposure to *Coxiella burnetii* (the bacteria that causes Q-fever), to educate potentially exposed persons regarding Q-fever transmission, to limit the spread of *Coxiella burnetii* in herd owner's livestock, and to detect suspect animals as soon as possible. This herd plan is voluntary, is subject to review and revision, and is not intended to represent a legal contract. These management practices are necessary to protect public health and animal health and it is the responsibility of the herd owner to comply with these standards.

Ranch Name: _____

Owner Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Manager: _____

Other Information: _____

Herd Owner agrees to the following:

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES:

The highest risk for human illness is due to contact with contaminated birth products (e.g., placentas, fetuses, amniotic fluids). Birth products and soiled bedding materials should be removed immediately, placed in a sealed, double-bagged trash bag, and disposed by incinerating or burying with a depth of at least 3 feet of soil. If the birth products are to be composted see additional references on composting, which are at the end of this document. Immune-compromised or other high risk individuals should consult their healthcare provider for counsel on the advisability of being in birthing areas.

BIOSECURITY:

- Consumption of only pasteurized dairy products is strongly recommended. People at high risk for severe Q-fever illness (e.g. infants/ small children, pregnant women, immunocompromised persons, and persons with heart valve defects) should be informed of the potential hazards. Access into the livestock holding areas should be strongly discouraged for these individuals
- Ideally, the birthing area should be constructed of impervious material and birth products should be removed immediately. All organic material in the area (i.e straw, other bedding) should be removed and the area disinfected (see below for disinfectants). Concrete floors and steel fences are recommended for ease of cleaning and disinfection.
- Avoid cleaning out buildings and moving soiled bedding on windy days. If using a high pressure washer after cleanout, dampen the area down first using a low pressure spray to decrease production of fine aerosols and wear appropriate respiratory protection .
- Limit visitors' access into the livestock holding areas or barns, unless necessary.
- Pregnant animals close to parturition or animals that have given birth within the last 2 weeks should not be moved off of the farm.
- Hands and arms should be washed thoroughly using warm water and soap after animal contact. If soap and water are not available, then alcohol-based hand sanitizers are a good second choice.
- Clothing worn in livestock holding areas or barns should be removed immediately after leaving the areas and washed in hot water using any commercial laundry product. **These clothes should not be worn into your home because of the strong possibility of tracking contagious bacteria into the house.**
- Boots should be cleaned and disinfected upon leaving the livestock areas or disposable boot covers should be used and removed and left on the farm. Be aware of the necessary contact time to ensure proper disinfection.
- Manure should be composted as described below. Do not sell manure to the public or use it in garden areas.
- Practice good rodent and tick control; keep dogs and cats away from birth products, carcasses or composting areas.

ANIMAL RECORDS:

- Maintain a detailed registry, which should record all livestock on the premises and any history of adverse pregnancy events (APE).
 - **An APE is defined as** an abortion, stillbirth, or birth of a weak newborn. The criteria for notification of these events in herds with >100 animals is higher than 5% of pregnant animals. For herds with ≤100 animals, a criteria of ≥1 events in a 60-day period applies.
- This record should be updated whenever an animal is bought or sold. Sales records of individuals who purchase or lease livestock from you including names, addresses, date of transaction and animal sold should also be maintained. This would be very similar to records required to meet the National Scrapie Control Program.

ANIMAL MOVEMENTS:

- Adhere to Animal Health Regulations when buying, selling, importing, and exporting livestock. If animals are obtained from out of state, one should obtain a health certificate, import permit, and meet any additional requirements specific to the species being imported.
- Learn the health history of newly purchased animals, particularly history of recent APEs. WSDA recommends Q-fever testing of newly purchased animals, followed by segregation from the rest of your herd for 30 days, and then retesting prior to commingling with your established herd.

SURVEILLANCE/TESTING:

- Q-fever is not uncommon in livestock and animal testing has limitations; therefore culling of animals based on serologic (blood) testing is not recommended as this will NOT ensure a negative herd. A positive Q-fever blood test does not mean that the animal is actively shedding the bacteria and a negative Q-fever blood test does not mean the animal is *not* currently shedding the bacteria. Blood tests reflect the level of past exposure at the herd level and should not be used to determine the fate of individual animals.
- Contact your local veterinarian if an adverse pregnancy event (APE) occurs in your herd or flock.
- A full abortion workup is recommended to accurately determine the cause of the outbreak. The fetus (if available), the placenta, and a maternal blood sample should be collected in a red top tube and submitted for testing purposes. Vaginal swabs are also a reasonable option, especially if there is not fetus or placenta sample available. Please contact a veterinary diagnostic lab, such as WADDL, for more information. (509-335-9696)
- Q-Fever is a reportable disease in Washington, and you are legally obligated to report a positive Q-fever- associated disease event to the Washington State Department of Agriculture when it occurs in your herd or flock. If you suspect you are experiencing illness in your herd or flock due to Q-fever, immediately provide notice to WSDA at 360-902-1878.
- If an animal on your farm experiences an APE that has been confirmed as Q-fever, immediately contact the Washington State Department of Health at 206-418-5500 to inform them of the potentially exposure to you and your visitors on your farm.
- A positive Q-fever animal may be retested with the same test 30 days after the initial test or 30 days after a birthing event.
- WSDA strongly recommends pasteurization of milk and milk products from positive animals or diverting this milk to other uses. WSDA field veterinarians will follow-up with further educational resources.

EDUCATION:

- All persons who purchase/lease livestock from you or allow their livestock to board at your farm should be informed of the potential risk of Q-fever transmission from livestock and of existing educational material available (i.e. Q-fever Information and CDC Q-fever FAQ Sheet).
- Provide visitors, especially those who enter the barns and livestock holding areas, with educational material (i.e., the CDC Q fever FAQ sheet). Any visitor to your farm that develops an unexplained illness with fever should be informed of the risk of Q-fever transmission from livestock.
- For more information - CDC Q-fever Disease FAQ (http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr6203a1.htm?s_cid=rr6203a1_e).

Term of this herd plan agreement:

Month/Day/Year

thru

Month/Day/Year

This herd plan is intended to be dynamic and subject to review and revision. This plan may be reviewed on an annual basis. As risks change in operations or other factors evolve, modifications may be made upon agreement between the herd owner and the Washington State Department of Agriculture. All parties must agree to any changes in this plan.

Herd Plan reviewed and agreed upon by:

Washington State Veterinarian or Designee

Date

Herd Owner

Date

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES:

Below are additional resources that may be useful to help control Q-fever infection and infective materials:

COMPOSTING

- Composting must be conducted in compliance with chapter 70.95 RCW and chapter 173-350 WAC and chapter 16-25-025 WAC, Routine Disposal.
- Link to Cornell Waste Management Institute - [Composting](#)
- Composting Manure and Other Organic Residues (NebGuide G1315, 2006) - [pdf](#)
- Michigan Animal Tissue Compost Operational Standard (2007) - [pdf](#)

DISINFECTION

From Center for Food Security and Public Health, Iowa State:

- Q-Fever - <http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/DiseaseInfo/disease.php?name=q-fever&lang=en>
- Disinfection 101 - <http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/BRM/resources/Disinfectants/Disinfection101.pdf>
- Common useful disinfectants;
 - A 1:10 dilution of household bleach plus detergent,
 - A 5% solution of hydrogen peroxide or a 1:100 dilution of Lysol ®.
 - A 30 minute contact time is recommended for all disinfection agents.

HANDWASHING

- CDC Handwashing: Clean Hands Save Lives - <http://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/>