The intent of this animal care and use procedure (ACUP) is to describe methods used to limit pathogen introduction and dissemination throughout farms by visitors. This ACUP is intended for use by Cornell University researchers and staff that are conducting IACUC approved protocol activity on privately owned farms. This ACUP is approved by the Cornell Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). Any deviation must be approved by the IACUC prior to its application.

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1. Introduction
For the purpose of this ACUP, a farm is defined as any livestock facility. This ACUP does not apply to researchers or staff that do not come in contact with animals, animal products, or animal use areas.

Biosecurity practices minimize the introduction and spread of infectious disease on farms. This document focuses on pathogens that may enter a farm on the boots, clothing, equipment, or vehicles of visitors and outlines procedures to follow before, during and after visiting a farm. Procedures are divided based on risk level:

a. Low risk:
   i. visiting only one farm on a given day;
   ii. little or no direct animal contact;
b. Moderate risk:
   i. visiting one farm but direct contact with multiple groups (e.g., young and mature animals)
   ii. or, visits to more than one farm per day, animal contact primarily limited to healthy animals from closed herds
c. High risk:
   i. visits to >1 farm and/or auction(s) in a single day;
   ii. direct animal contact occurs;
   iii. contact with ill or quarantined animals is common;

2. Materials
- Vehicle
- Clean protective clothing (e.g., coveralls), at least one set for each farm or production unit visited
Footwear – facility dedicated footwear, easily sanitizable boots, and/or disposable plastic foot covers
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) (e.g., exam gloves)
- Container (preferably disposable) for transport of soiled items (e.g., dirty coveralls)
- Cleaning and disinfection supplies (e.g., soap and water, scrub brush, boot brush, bucket, disposable towels, and disinfectant/sanitizer.

3. Procedures
a. General precautions for visitors:
   i. Inform farm manager(s) of visit in advance of arrival. If visiting multiple farms, consult farm managers and facility veterinarians when establishing site visit order.
   ii. Observe all site specific biosecurity practices.
   iii. Clothing:
      • Arrive in clean clothes (including hats, gloves, etc.)
      • Wear clean or facility dedicated clean outer garments (e.g., coveralls) when in contact with animals or when entering animal housing areas.
      • Change outer garments between each farm visited and launder or disinfect before using again. Alternatively, disposable coveralls can be used and disposed of upon leaving each farm.
      • On some large farms with multiple production units (e.g., poultry, swine and calf rearing units on the same farm) it may be necessary to change garments and disinfect between units.
   iv. Footwear:
      • Wear rubber boots (or similar, easily cleaned and disinfected footwear), facility dedicated footwear, or disposable plastic foot covers.
      • Sanitize rubber boots before entering the facility.
      • Utilize boot baths scrub brushes whenever provided, to clean and disinfect footwear.
      • Clean and disinfect footwear before leaving farm.
   v. Equipment and other supplies:
      • Limit the amount of material (e.g., pens, notepads, paper) carried into animal housing or procedure areas to the minimum required.
      • All equipment must be cleaned and disinfected after use and/or upon leaving animal housing or procedure areas, especially equipment in direct contact with animals (e.g., stethoscopes, thermometers).
   vi. Vehicles:
      • Must be free of animal associated organic material (e.g., manure, silage, etc.) prior to each farm visit.
      • Avoid driving through mud, surface water, and manure if possible while on farm.
      • Designate clean (e.g., back seat, or clean tote) and soiled (e.g., trunk, or soiled tote) interior areas of vehicle and segregate items based on level of cleanliness (e.g., soiled coveralls bagged and placed in trunk)
      • Prevent contamination of passenger compartment.
      • Avoid parking in locations where animals, feed, and waste material are handled. Also avoid parking in the milk house area.
   vii. Limit animal contact to the minimum required to accomplish goals.
viii. Limit the number of farms and/or areas of farms visited to the minimum required to accomplish goals.
b. Low risk visits (e.g., closed herd/flock with no known disease):
i. Follow all general precautions above (section 3.a).
ii. If possible, avoid animal contact completely (e.g., conduct meetings in office area away from animal housing).
iii. Don protective clothing and boots prior to any animal contact.
iv. Wear disposable exam gloves when handling/taking samples from animals.
v. Wash hands and other potentially contaminated skin surfaces (e.g., arms, face), after contact with animals, equipment in direct contact with animals, manure, or biological samples.
vi. Remove and dispose of contaminated disposable items in waste containers at each farm or provide suitable disposable containers within the “dirty” area of your vehicle.
vii. When activities are complete, before getting into the vehicle: remove facility dedicated outer garments (if applicable), place reusable outer garments in a transport container or discard disposable outer garments in waste containers, thoroughly clean and disinfect boots as applicable. Launder reusable outer garments in preparation for future farm visits.
c. High risk visits (e.g., auctions, quarantine facilities):
i. Follow all recommendations above (section 3.a and 3.b)
ii. Bring your own cleaning and disinfection supplies (see materials) if these items are not available in each facility.
iii. Move from young to mature animals in a given facility, always attend sick animals last.
iv. Clean and disinfect footwear and equipment as you enter and exit each facility; change outer garments between facilities (e.g., change coveralls or discard disposable Tyvek style coverall). Always visit high risk facilities last.
v. Wash vehicle between farm visits if it becomes contaminated with animal associated organic material or if the vehicle has been driven into the interior of a farm.

NOTE: The presence of a known pathogen of concern may require pathogen specific biosecurity practices. Pre-visit correspondence (see 3.a.i) should include an update of the farm’s current pathogen and biosecurity status.

4. Personnel Safety
   • Medical emergencies: call 911
   • When working with animals wear appropriate PPE, observe proper hygiene, and be aware of allergy, zoonosis, and injury risks. Refer to the CARE Occupational Health and Safety webpage for more information.

5. Animal Related Contingencies - NA

6. References
   • NY SCHAP Best Management Practices
     http://nyschap.vet.cornell.edu/module/core/section1/CoreBMP1.pdf
   • Best Management Practices for Farm Visitors, New York State Cattle Health Assurance Program (NY SCHAP)
     http://nyschap.vet.cornell.edu/factsheet/BMP%20Farm%20Visitors%208-16.pdf
- Best Management Practices for the Prevention of Entry of Disease onto Livestock Operations, New York State Cattle Health Assurance Program (NYSCHAP) 
  http://nyschap.vet.cornell.edu/factsheet/BMP%20Entry%208-16.pdf

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<th>Rev#: Orig Author</th>
<th>Rev#: Effective date(s)</th>
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<td>.01: Dec 15, 2011</td>
<td>Nov 2014</td>
<td>F. Welcome</td>
<td>ACUP 630.01</td>
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