



## **Tips & Guidelines for Feedlot Operations in the face of COVID -19**

National Cattle Feeders Association has compiled a number of tips and guidelines being implemented successfully by members and Directors for others to utilize to ensure safety during this pandemic, and into the future if necessary.

### **General Resources:**

- [Canadian Ag Human Resources Council](#)
- [Canadian Cattlemen's Association – Updates and Tips for Canadian Farms on COVID-19](#)
- [Farm Credit Canada – HR and Risk Management Planning](#)
- [Telus Babylon App](#)
- [Public Health Agency of Canada](#)
- [World Health Organization](#)
- [COVID-19 info for Albertans](#)
- [Alberta Health Services - Flu, cold, or COVID 19](#)

### **General hygiene recommendations:**

- Sanitize after each use common touch points often – fuel pumps, door handles, truck cabs, heavy equipment interiors, squeeze equipment, computers, phones, lunch room
- Avoid contact with other staff where possible, if contact is required maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from each other
- Practice proper hand washing – minimum of 20 seconds - wash hands frequently
- Cover coughs and sneezes and cough/sneeze into elbow
- Avoid touching face, mouth, eyes with unwashed hands
- Avoid all unnecessary travel and practice social distancing when interaction is necessary

### **HR Policies, Best Practices, and Guidelines to Mitigate Risk on Farms:**

- a. Ensure you have a risk mitigation and management plan
  - i. Include operations, communications, and HR
  - ii. Triage responsibilities and activities so critical roles are always filled (ex: animals fed, essential products ordered, manure managed, etc.)
- b. If possible, work from home / potentially close farm offices
- c. Update sick leave policies
- d. Create designated teams or pods who only interact with each other and still, only when necessary
- e. Where possible, move to shift work
- f. No physical contact with truckers/visitors
  - i. Truckers should remain in truck while on farm – designate staff to load, unload, receive and issue paperwork

- g. Lunch room protocols
  - i. Shift eating/team eating
  - ii. Create zones
  - iii. Disinfecting between shifts
- h. Limit equipment to single worker(s); or specific team/pods of workers
- i. Enforce self-isolation if travelling; in contact with infected person; or high risk
- j. In cases of symptoms like a common cold; and if farm workers become in short supply; use active isolation where employees would self-isolate between work and home only. Use in conjunction with zone practices or other methods of at-work isolation
- k. In cases of high-risk personnel (immunodeficient; pregnant, etc.) – provide work isolation practices (ie: limit equipment or job to 1 person where possible)
- l. Before/after work and days of rest – staff practice social distancing in public
  - i. Keep at least 6 feet (the length of a bicycle) from others when going out for groceries, medical trips and other essential needs
- m. Have sanitizer stations readily available and regularly clean and disinfectant in all equipment and traffic areas
- n. Print and post all farm protocols on every entrance way and all communal areas
  - i. Ex: The safety of our supplies and staff is one of our top priorities and we are committed to:
    - Cleaning regularly, especially high traffic areas
    - Wiping down and disinfecting surfaces
    - Social distancing
- o. Establish operational leniencies to encourage further social distancing – ex: collecting unload weights, allowing truckers to roll back tarps and then return to their truck

\*This document is not to be considered official health regulations. It was compiled based on suggestions from peers in the cattle feeder industry, for official health care and legal policies, please visit your local healthcare website for resources.\*