

What do you
have to **provide**
in an **outbreak?**



Livetec
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Building the future
of **livestock** protection

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WHAT HAPPENS IN AN OUTBREAK?

The outbreak of a contagious animal disease, such as African swine fever or avian influenza (AI), is often a catastrophic scenario for any farmer. It will inevitably disrupt business operations - thus affecting revenue – will often require intervention from government agencies such as the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) and may also be associated with mandatory depopulation.

However, steps can be taken to minimise disruption, contain the outbreak and, of course, comply with the law. All this is vital in order to get your business back up and running with normal operations resumed as efficiently as possible.

As soon as a farmer suspects there may be cases of a notifiable disease among their livestock - including but not limited to avian influenza, African swine fever and foot-and-mouth disease, they are obliged to notify the Animal and Plant Health Agency, which is the UK government agency responsible for protecting animal health and welfare. APHA would then send a team of veterinary experts to the farm to investigate the outbreak and implement measures to control its spread as appropriate.

If an outbreak is confirmed, the impacted farm is placed under quarantine. This means no animals, people or vehicles are permitted to move on or off farm. Movement restrictions would also be put in place on other farms in the area, while the affected livestock is depopulated. The loss of livestock can be difficult to deal with both emotionally and financially, but depopulation is necessary in order to ensure the safety of the public, the environment and other animals in the immediate local area.





APHA will also carry out tracing and testing within a designated zone, to determine the extent of the outbreak and to prevent the disease from spreading further. If necessary, and if available, vaccination programs may also be implemented.

Finally, cleaning and disinfection procedures must be carried out to eradicate any remaining traces of disease. This requires a thorough clean of all buildings, equipment, and vehicles. Housing should also be cleaned and all bedding changed. Additional biosecurity measures, such as disinfection at all entrances and exits may also be necessary.

Throughout the entire process, APHA will require the farmer's full cooperation. Complying with all requirements, and providing all relevant documentation is in the farmer's best interest in order to contain the outbreak and resume business as usual as soon as possible, minimising disruption and financial losses.

THE IMPORTANCE OF **FULL LOGBOOK RECORDS**

Full logbook records are vital in the event of an outbreak and play a role in both disease management and containment.

Logbook records should contain detailed information about every animal on farm, along with their movements, and any treatments or medications they have received previously or are receiving currently.

Keeping full logbook records is a legal requirement for all farmers in the UK. Failure to keep accurate and up-to-date records can result in monetary fines being issued. Incomplete, inaccurate or difficult to access records also makes it much more difficult to control and manage an outbreak.

A slower response can increase the scale of livestock loss, allow the disease to spread to other farms and inhibit the resumption of normal operations.

There are several reasons why full logbook records are invaluable in case of an outbreak. First and foremost, they can help identify potential issues early. Records which document any changes in animal health or behaviour can facilitate the early detection of disease.

The earlier the presence of disease can be detected, the quicker measures can be implemented to stop its spread.





Maintaining good biosecurity isn't something that can be neatly ticked off. Taking a consistent and proactive approach to good record-keeping can make it much easier to identify potential risk factors - such as contaminated feed or water, or possible points of contact between poultry and wild birds – and take appropriate remedial action.

With that in mind, replacing paper-based records with digital record keeping can ensure timely interventions when an outbreak is suspected.

If any outbreak does occur, speed of response matters. Complete, accurate and easily accessible logbook records enable authorities to trace the movement of livestock, feed, and other materials quickly and accurately on and off the farm. This can lead directly to the source of the outbreak.

It also enables other farms or locations potentially exposed to the disease to be identified. Farm Health Guardian, Livetec's effective biosecurity management software gives users the ability to digitalise their logbooks - making them accurate, accessible and allows for both vehicle and people tracking, which is critical for any farm business, both before and during an outbreak.

CLEANING AND DISINFECTION PLAN

Once the outbreak has been confirmed, farm operations restricted and depopulation and contact tracing has taken place, it's time to clean and disinfect.

This isn't a case of following standard on-farm cleaning processes. In the aftermath of an outbreak, cleansing and disinfection must be planned and carried out to certain standards in order to be effective - and legal.

The UK government has regulations in place to ensure that farms are kept clean and hygienic. Failure to comply with these regulations can result in fines - and of course it can also impact the health and welfare of animals, causing more financial losses to the farmer. Implementing a cleaning and disinfection plan, with the use of an approved disinfectant, is a key part of compliance with these regulations.

Thorough cleansing and disinfection will help to eliminate pathogens from all surfaces, equipment, and other materials. This is a mandatory measure that must be carried out and signed off by APHA before restocking can begin.

While safeguarding the health of livestock by preventing the recurrence of disease is the most important goal of a biosecurity cleaning and disinfection plan, an appropriate plan created by a biosecurity specialist can also increase the confidence of consumers, suppliers, and industry regulators.



INSPECTION OF YOUR **PRODUCTION AND ANIMAL MOVEMENT RECORDS**

In the event of a notifiable disease outbreak, government authorities and/or veterinary inspectors will inspect the farm's production and animal movement records.

This is essential to trace the source of the outbreak: did it originate on the farm in question, or was it brought onto farm from another location?

Movement records can help to narrow down the origin of disease. If the farm in question is indeed the source of the outbreak, production and animal movement records make it possible to quickly identify other farms and facilities which may have been exposed to disease through the movement of livestock and products. This knowledge enables swift containment action to take place to prevent further disease incursion.

Production and animal movement records can also be used to assess whether the farm has been complying with regulations and industry standards.

Inspecting production and animal movement records will ensure the effectiveness of all biosecurity measures in place on farm. Even where a good standard of biosecurity exists, there may be room for further improvement.

Production and animal movement records are a precious tool to identify weaknesses in biosecurity practices, so that any gaps may be closed and overall biosecurity improved to prevent further disease outbreaks.

Even outside the event of an outbreak, comprehensive records of production and animal movements are vital for the biosecurity of any farm, and to make outbreaks of disease less likely. Having all movements recorded makes it easier to pinpoint potential risk factors and intervene before those potential risks turn into a worst-case scenario.



FARM MAPPING

Having good biosecurity means having a plan - and for any plan to be implemented, both the farmer and the APHA experts need to know precisely what the playing field is.

Farm mapping is the process of creating a detailed map of a farm that shows the location and layout of all the farm's different areas, buildings, and facilities. The location of animal housing areas, feed storage facilities, and water sources are amongst the most important sites to be mapped. The more accurate and detailed the mapping, the easier the inspector and veterinarians' task will be in case of an outbreak: it will allow them to quickly identify potential sources of the disease, and take immediate action.

Farm mapping can provide a starting point for tracing the spread of disease. The map allows for a theory to be built as to the path the disease took and how quickly – plus how far on to neighbouring land – it may have spread. Along with the aforementioned movement records, farm mapping allows farmers and APHA experts to develop control and containment strategies that are tailored to the specific needs of the farm. This can help to minimise the impact of the outbreak on the farm and the wider community.

Of course, farm mapping is not only useful after an outbreak has occurred: much like the movement records, logbook records, and cleaning and disinfection plan, it can form the backbone of a solid biosecurity plan to minimise the risk of future outbreaks.

The UK requires farms to have detailed maps that show the location of all buildings, facilities, and land use areas; failure to comply with these regulations can result in fines and other penalties. As should be abundantly clear when it comes to biosecurity and disease prevention, failing to plan means planning to fail.

**It's important
to be aware that
farm mapping
is not optional.**





ALL DOCUMENTS NEEDED

In the event of a notifiable disease outbreak, a range of documents must be made available to the authorities to help manage the outbreak and prevent its spread:

Movement records:

This refers to records of all animal movements on and off the farm for at least the last 12 months. This information plays an important role in tracing the spread of the disease and identifying potential sources of infection.

Cleaning and disinfection plan:

This is a detailed plan for cleaning and disinfecting after an outbreak has been confirmed and depopulation has taken place. This plan should detail not only the products to be used, but also specify the time and frequency of cleaning and disinfecting.

Biosecurity plan:

This is a detailed plan for implementing and maintaining biosecurity measures on the farm. From quarantine protocols to visitor policies and equipment cleaning procedures, all biosecurity measures taken should be detailed in this document.

Farm map:

This is a detailed map of the farm that shows the location and layout of all facilities, buildings, and land use areas.

Production records:

This refers to records of all animal health treatments, including vaccinations and medication.

Animal movement records:

Farmers must be able to produce movement records for all livestock and animal products. These records should include animal identification numbers, such as ear tags or microchip numbers. This information plays a foundational role in tracing the movement of animals on and off farm. As such, movement records can make it easier to identify potential sources of infection.

Financial records:

Last but not least, financial records should be produced in order to quantify the impact of the disease outbreak on their business. This information may not be of use to stop the spread of disease, but it will be needed in order to access compensation schemes and other forms of financial support for farmers forced to depopulate and put their operations on hold due to a notifiable disease outbreak.



How **Livetec** can help

Livetec are the industry leaders in biosecurity. We provide the most up to date advice to help you make informed decisions for your biosecurity plans.

This advice will reduce the risk of harmful pathogens entering your farm and causing a disease outbreak.

We're here to help put stringent, appropriate biosecurity policies and practices in place to protect the welfare of your flock, your farm business, and your reputation.

We can provide comprehensive training for all employees and staff, including relief workers, so everyone on your premises is fully aware of exactly what they need to do to prevent an outbreak, and actions to take should an outbreak occur to stem its spread.

Our plans encompass best practices, are based on evidence and the latest legislation.

Visit www.livetecsystems.co.uk

Livetec
are the
industry
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in biosecurity



OUR **SERVICES AND PLANS**

Biosecurity Advisory Service

In the constant battle against disease Livetec offers a unique **Biosecurity Advisory Service**, backed by years of on-farm experience and evidence based research. With this robust service, one of our experts conducts an on-site review of your day-to-day operations and advises you on implementing the most effective biosecurity measures. Helping you prepare for whatever the future may bring.

Contingency Plan

At Livetec we have developed contingency plans that predict potential scenarios, risks and emergencies that could arise in the future. Then we design strategies that help you manage any issues you may encounter. The plans include a biosecurity plan, a cleaning and disinfection plan and the national outbreak plan.

Biosecurity Plan

Having a biosecurity plan is vital for the running of a farm business. We use our years of knowledge and on-farm experience to create a bespoke biosecurity plan designed to prevent the introduction of deadly pathogens. The plans include a full biosecurity overview to provide protection, an all-year planning and high-risk period prevention plan, also cleaning and disinfection records and a plan to deal with pest incursion.

Emergency Response Plan

An emergency response plan enhances your preparedness for a disease outbreak. It holds all of the critical information you need to comply with any requests from APHA. It includes a complete overview to biosecurity planning, an immediate action plan on suspicion of disease, infected premises information and planning and everything you need to navigate an outbreak of disease more smoothly.

Our **services** and **plans** continued...

The National Outbreak Plan

The National Outbreak Plan from Livetec is a wealth of information on how to prevent disease incursions; it informs you about what you're legally required to do should one occur and how to plan for a speedy recovery. It clearly explains all the zones the Government can impose, explaining what your obligations are during an outbreak. It's the first step to contingency planning, helping you prepare for the worst, should it happen.

Cleaning and Disinfection Plan

A critical part of disease recovery includes comprehensive cleaning and disinfection of the premises. Our plan is designed to give you the framework, instructions and show compliance to APHA to make your business operational again.

Biosecurity Services for Insurance Purposes

In order to have the right level of cover on your farm, you must be able to tell insurers the biosecurity measures you have in place to mitigate your risks of a disease outbreak. Your dedicated Livetec biosecurity advisor will conduct a telephone consultation to establish whether a desk-based risk assessment is required. Should an on-site risk assessment be required, our experts will use the findings from our visit to provide you with a detailed report.

Farm Health Guardian

Farm Health Guardian is a unique, cost-effective biosecurity management software that helps you to keep track of movements on and off your farm premises. It empowers farmers and their teams to manage biosecurity related processes from any location, using any handheld device.



Biosecurity Advisory Service

Our Biosecurity Advisory Service provides you with an on-farm visit with a biosecurity expert. Our on-farm discovery sessions make us a supportive partner, helping you to minimise risks and imparting knowledge so that you can better protect your farm from disease incursion.

Contingency Plan

Our Contingency Plans encompass every aspect of farming businesses, risks and emergencies that could arise in the future. We help you to design strategies to manage the impact of these concerns. A comprehensive package, this helps make you compliant and insurable.



Biosecurity Plan

Without a Biosecurity Plan in place, you are leaving your business and animals highly susceptible to disease incursion. We document your biosecurity plans to encompass and outline all of the measures that must be followed by every single person on/off-farm to prevent the introduction of deadly pathogens.

Emergency Response Plan

An Infected Premises Response plan or, as we call them, an Emergency Response Plan, significantly enhances your preparedness and is designed to cover everything that APHA and insurance brokers require if and when they visit your farm business. This plan holds all the necessary critical information, in one place, putting your mind at rest during a time of crisis.



National Outbreak Plan

Our National Outbreak Plan has been designed to comply with the regulations and requirements set by the UK government, providing bird owners with everything you need to know should you be impacted by a disease outbreak or fall within a restriction zone.

Cleaning and Disinfection Plan

Our Cleaning and Disinfection plan is designed to give you the framework for all of the measures you need to take, with clear instructions that comply with APHA requirements.



Farm Health Guardian

Farm Health Guardian (FHG) distributed by Livetec Systems is a biosecurity management system that records the movement of trucks and people on/off-farm properties for rapid contact tracing in the event of a disease outbreak. An invaluable tool for enhancing biosecurity on-farm.

To find out more about how our plans can help your farming business, please visit www.livetecsystems.co.uk/plans or email us for more information sales@livetecsystems.co.uk