

SURVEY OF DIRECT AND INDIRECT ANIMAL CONTACTS AMONG LIVESTOCK FACILITIES IN 3 CALIFORNIA COUNTIES

Bates TW¹, Thurmond MC¹, Carpenter TE¹

¹Department of Medicine and Epidemiology, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of California, Davis CA 95616

A study was conducted in a 3-county region of California to estimate disease transmission potential among livestock premises, either directly from movement of animals, or indirectly via vehicles or persons. Questionnaires and surveys were used to obtain information from beef, dairy, goat, sheep, and swine producers; artificial inseminators, hoof trimmers, and veterinarians; sales yards; and a sample of truck routes for creameries, rendering plants, and feed companies. The number of direct animal contacts for dairies reporting animal movement to the dairy ranged from 1.6 to 2.6 animal shipments/mo and indirect contacts increased from 234 to 419/mo, as herd size increased from <1000 to 1000-1999 animals. The average number of direct contacts for beef herds reporting animal movement to the ranch was 0.4/mo, and indirect contacts for beef herds increased from 22.1/mo. for <250 cows to 46.0/mo for herds with ≥ 250 cows. The 3-day range of travel for indirect contacts varied from 58.4km for AI technicians to 210.4km for commodity vehicles. On average, milk trucks visited 9.4 dairies/day and 1.8 dairies before returning to the creamery (min=1, max=5), with a travel range of 130 miles. Of livestock arriving at sales yards, 7% came from a location more than 60 km away, and of those sold, 31% were destined for a location more than 60 km away. These data will provide some basis for developing herd biosecurity strategies, including those necessary if exotic diseases, such as foot and mouth disease, should they enter California.