

TAILGATE TOPIC



TOPIC: General Zoonotic Disease Prevention in Sheep Operations

OVERVIEW: A disease that can be transmitted between humans and animals is called zoonosis. While it is rare to become infected with a zoonotic disease, it is important that employees are trained to prevent, recognize and report zoonotic diseases. This includes what to do if either an employee or sheep show signs or symptoms, how to report potential zoonotic diseases and steps that employees can take to prevent transmission of zoonotic diseases. In this tailgate, we will talk about important steps to prevent zoonotic disease.

TALKING POINTS:

- Know and understand the signs and symptoms of zoonotic diseases in humans and sheep.
- Washing your hands is one of the most important precautions against zoonotic infections.
- Make sure that you wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for at least 15 to 20 seconds.
- You should not eat, drink or smoke while handling sheep. Before you engage in any of these activities, including using the restroom facilities, you should wash your hands thoroughly.
- Avoid touching your face, eyes and mouth while you are working around sheep.
- Wear gloves when handling aborted fetus or discarded afterbirth.
- Gloves should be properly discarded after use. Always wash your hands after removing gloves.

- If you come into contact with feces or other body fluids while handling sheep/lambs, wash your hands and other exposed body parts thoroughly.
- Report any potential zoonotic diseases (either in you or the sheep) immediately to your supervisor.

REVIEW QUESTIONS:

1. True or False: Washing your hands is one of the most important precautions against zoonotic infections. (Answer: True)
2. What should you do if you believe you or a sheep/lamb has a potential zoonotic disease? (Answer: Report to supervisor or owner)
3. True or False: It is o.k. to eat, drink or smoke while handling sheep. (Answer: False: You should not eat, drink or smoke while handling sheep.)
4. What should be worn when handling aborted fetus or discarded afterbirth? (Answer: Gloves)

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TT-AG025 (12/11)

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