

# BIOSECURITY, DON'T TAKE IT FOR GRANTED!

By David Thorbahn, general manager and executive vice president

It has been hard to miss the recent widespread coverage of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) in western Europe. The effect of this outbreak, which came on the heels of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), has been devastating for farmers, consumers, agriculture and the overall economy of that area.

Situations like this remind us of our responsibility to:

- Do everything possible and practical to stop the spread of animal disease, whether or not it is zoonotic (transmissible to humans);

- Learn more about the best ways to create biosecure environments in our livestock operations.

- Reinforce consumer confidence in the safety and quality of beef and dairy products produced in the United States; and

While FMD has created recent headlines and been the catalyst for renewed focus on biosecurity, herds that adopt practical biosecurity programs also should benefit from reduced incidence of more common diseases like mastitis and Johne's.

That's why Select Sires has

stepped up biosecurity

measures at our production centers. We have eliminated all direct access to bulls and production areas of our plants by anyone other than authorized personnel. If scheduled in advance, people can visit the office facilities and see bulls through a glass, viewing wall. This will protect the biosecurity of our bull population while continuing to promote the A.I. and dairy industries.

We also have discontinued tours of customers' farms by international guests. In addition, all Select Sires member cooperatives have adopted specific on-farm biosecurity protocols for employees. Under the guidance of Dr. Don Monke, Select has developed guidelines for employees who travel internationally that can be a handy reference for producers, as well.

The bottom line is that we must not panic, but we must be diligent to reduce disease transmission. You can stand assured that Select Sires will. ♦



## BIOSECURITY GUIDELINES FOR INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

- Whenever possible, reduce contact with animals.
- Wear protective outer clothing (coveralls and boots) that is disposable or that remains on the farm visited. Upon returning to the United States...
  - At the U.S. point of entry, provide all footwear worn on farms for disinfection by Customs officials. All dirt and organic material should be removed before the disinfection process.
  - Shower, shampoo hair and change into clean clothing.
  - Wash all clothes taken on international travel. If clothing cannot be washed, it should be dry-cleaned.

- If luggage was soiled, it, too, should be cleaned and disinfected. (NOTE: A 50 percent solution of vinegar in water is an appropriate homemade disinfectant suitable for FMDV.)
- Do not enter any barn for at least five days (120 hours) after last contact on a foreign farm. Time spent on return travel is part of this time interval.
- Do not have contact with susceptible farm livestock (e.g., cattle, hogs, sheep) for at least five days after returning from a country with FMD.

## THE LOSS OF A LEADER

It is with deep sadness that I share news about the untimely death of David Timm, our recently elected president of Select Sires Inc. He passed away suddenly on May 17 after suffering a heart attack.

Dave was an untiring source of new ideas and inspiration for our federation. He always represented his constituents at All West/Select Sires well, while, at the same time, looking out for the best interests of the federation as a whole. Whether delivering constructive criticism or an "atta-boy," Dave provided the words of encouragement in a quiet, positive way. He was a true leader.

While we had intended for the following words to appear in this issue to celebrate his election as president of Select Sires, they now serve as a tribute to the service of David Timm, a leader in every sense of the word.

On March 22, David Timm, Eagle Creek, Ore., was elected to serve as president of the Select Sires board of directors.

Unlike many dairymen, Timm was not "born into" the dairy business. He wasn't raised on a dairy or related to a dairyman - he just liked cows. Timm was born in North Dakota and was transplanted to Oregon when he was 4 years of age. As a schoolboy he began working on a dairy, and the rest was history.

Timm purchased a 166-acre farm near Portland, Ore., in 1975, and started building barns and a milking parlor. Cows were moved into the facility in 1976. With hard work and tremendous determination, he built a very successful dairy from scratch.

In November 1994, Timm suffered a devastating stroke. The next few years were a struggle to keep the dairy running while undergoing daily physical therapy and rehabilitation. Timm's spirit, courage and determination helped him through this difficult time. He attended his first All West/Select Sires annual meeting following the stroke, in a

wheelchair and with an enduring positive attitude.

Timm was elected as an All West director in 1982. When attending his first Select Sires annual meeting, he was chosen to serve on the executive committee. A long-time participant in the Program for Genetic Advancement™ and believer in the value of the Select Mating Service™, Timm has served the organization well.

"Dave is a true cooperative supporter all the way," says Herald Catlin, All West general manager. "Dave has shown excellent judgment and leadership in every position he has held." ♦

