



SECURE MILK SUPPLY DAIRY BIOSECURITY PROGRAM

TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
RESEARCH

*A united effort between
Texas A&M University &
Texas Association
of Dairymen*

*Project awarded under USDA's 2024 National Animal
Disease Preparedness & Response Program (NADPRP)*

ABOUT:

This effort strengthens dairy facilities' biosecurity in one of the nation's most critical milk-producing regions, the Texas-New Mexico border. By developing, implementing, and evaluating Secure Milk Supply (SMS) biosecurity plans, we can support business continuity in the event of a catastrophic disease outbreak (e.g., foot-and-mouth disease) and improve long-term preparedness across dairy, beef, and swine industries.

Over 90% of dairies in the region lack an SMS plan, and many dairy veterinarians are unfamiliar or uncomfortable with the planning process. This critical gap leaves dairy operations vulnerable to rapid disease spread. With Texas ranking #1 in cattle feeding, #4 in dairy production, and #9 in commercial swine, inadequate biosecurity within dairy operations poses a significant national food-supply risk.

*Aimed to benefit dairy producers, processors, calf/heifer operations,
dairy & large-animal veterinarians, beef & swine industries, state and
federal animal health agencies, & U.S. consumers*



GOALS:

Create comprehensive biosecurity plans for

25 dairy farms, 2 dairy processors, 2 calf ranches, and 1 heifer raiser.

Identify obstacles & best practices to

capture challenges faced by producers and veterinarians, documenting effective approaches for completing SMS plans.

Train the next generation by

engaging 4th-year veterinary students in hands-on plan SMS development to build long-term workforce capacity in underserved rural regions.

Create & share a resource guide that will

summarize best practices, lessons learned, and step-by-step SMS guidance for producers and stakeholders.

Strengthen multi-industry disease preparedness by

complementing SMS plan development with existing Secure Beef Supply (SBS) and Secure Pork Supply (SPS) guidance and initiatives.



ACTIVITIES:

- Write SMS plans through on-site visits and producer interviews.
- Survey dairy veterinarians and producers to identify barriers and training needs.
- Develop SMS best practices and resources.
- Conduct outreach via websites, social media, and producer association meetings.
- Evaluate resource materials with program stakeholders and 200+ veterinarians, producers, and state officials to ensure real-world applicability and industry alignment.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES:

1) 30 SMS plans completed to significantly expand biosecurity coverage across the Texas-New Mexico border and surrounding regions.

2) A roadmap for future SMS plan development, reducing barriers and increasing biosecurity across the dairy industry.

3) Increased veterinary workforce readiness, particularly in rural and high-need areas identified by USDA.

4) Long-term risk reduction for foreign animal disease transmission across livestock sectors.

5) Improved business continuity for dairymen and cattle producers and food supply protection for U.S. consumers.

Questions? Program point-of-contact:

Dr. Dee Ellis (dee.ellis@ag.tamu.edu)