

Additional Biosecurity Measures

If an outbreak of a contagious or infectious poultry or livestock disease takes place, the Maryland Department of Agriculture may issue any necessary order to prevent the spread of disease. This may include a prohibition against transporting manure in the state or region.

An applicant applying for cost-share through Maryland's Manure Transport Program may be required to implement additional biosecurity measures as a condition of grant approval. Poultry producers are strongly encouraged to discuss biosecurity with their company representatives and the University of Maryland to determine—on a case-by-case basis—whether additional measures are needed to protect individual poultry flocks and the industry at large.



Maryland
Department of Agriculture
Office of Resource Conservation



Biosecurity and Maryland's Manure Transport Program



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Manure Transport Safety

Maryland's Manure Transport Program provides grants to help poultry, dairy, beef, and other livestock producers transport excess manure off their farms. Animal producers with high soil phosphorus levels or not enough land to handle all their manure can receive cost-share assistance of up to \$20 per ton to transport excess manure to other farms or businesses that can use the product in an environmentally safe manner.

Participation in the Manure Transport Program has grown steadily over the years, with more than 775,000 tons of manure transported during the last decade alone. Due to the large volume of manure being moved, it is important that certain safeguards and precautions be taken to prevent the spread of disease-causing organisms to farm animals.

How Disease Spreads

Many common diseases are produced by microbes that are invisible unless viewed under a microscope. In less than a day, a single microbe can reproduce and multiply millions of times. Microbes can be deadly, persistent killers that readily survive in dust particles, droppings, and manure. Microbes travel from place to place on chicken crates, cattle trailers, farm equipment, trucks, and people. They can be found on people's hands, hair, clothing, and shoes. Rodents, birds, flies, beetles, and other insects are notorious spreaders of disease-causing organisms as well.

What is Biosecurity?

Keeping disease-causing organisms in check is the key to protecting Maryland's poultry and livestock industries. Effective preven-

tion measures reduce outbreaks of diseases such as avian influenza, Newcastle Disease, laryngotracheitis, and duck plague on poultry farms; porcine epidemic diarrhea (PED) virus in pigs; and foot-and-mouth disease in cloven-hoofed animals. Such outbreaks can cause poultry and livestock epidemics, public alarm, and long, expensive quarantines resulting in financial hardship. It is possible to keep Maryland's poultry and livestock industries healthy by using defensive measures known as biosecurity to prevent the spread of disease from one flock or herd of animals to another.

Special precautions must be taken when moving manure to a new location or farm. Most farms have biosecurity standards for visitors to follow that help prevent the spread of disease. Always ask about special rules and requirements before entering a poultry or livestock operation.

Maryland's Manure Transport Program Required Biosecurity Measures for Poultry and Livestock Operations



To help ensure the health and safety of Maryland's poultry and livestock industries, Maryland's Manure Transport Program requires transporters to implement the following biosecurity measures:

- ✓ Make certain the cargo area is clean and free of foreign material before loading poultry litter or manure.
- ✓ Cover all loads during transport on public roads.
- ✓ Cover all truck-mounted or tractor-drawn spreaders when moving poultry litter or manure between farms unless the farms are contiguous.
- ✓ Secure all loads so that poultry litter or manure will not spill, blow, drop, or leak from transportation or application equipment.

- ✓ Clean, sweep, disinfect, and if necessary wash the cargo area and all transport and handling equipment after unloading and before moving to another poultry or livestock operation.
- ✓ Do not transport or offer for transport poultry litter containing dead birds that are not completely composted.
- ✓ Do not drive transport equipment over land where poultry litter or manure has been applied.
- ✓ Haulers and drivers must thoroughly clean and disinfect boots when arriving and leaving farms. Disposable boots may be used and these should be removed when leaving a farm and placed in a plastic bag for disposal. Outerwear such as coveralls should also be changed between farm visits.

