



Ambic

Anco

Ayurvet

Bioret

Henke-Sass Wolf

Intracare

Livisto

Mervue Laboratories

Neogen

Termotecnica Pericoli

The risk of people

In the last Dairyhealth BYTES we briefly discussed the boundary approach to biosecurity, in which we placed a boundary around our dairy farm and then reviewed everything that comes on to it. If something was not necessary we stopped it coming on to the farm and, if it was essential, we found ways to eliminate or greatly reduce any risk of disease associated with that item.

This process especially applies to the calf house as it will contain a number of calves in a confined air space and they tend to suckle anything that approaches them, including overalls and boots.

We will also need to look at this approach in relation to people but, before that, let us consider how man can bring disease-causing micro-organisms on to the dairy farm. Being generic these include:

- In the body (if the person is sick)
- On the body
- On their clothes
- On anything they take with them into the farm

Contamination in the body

Contamination in the body is the least likely of the above four ways to transmit disease into your herd. However, in the current climate of food safety concerns we must think of salmonella. Man can be a carrier of salmonella if they have consumed raw milk, or cheese made from raw milk, undercooked pork or raw eggs.

If a person has the actual disease they will shed more salmonella per hour than they will if they are just a carrier, but the carrier state can exist for much longer. In a situation like this, the salmonella first has to leave the person, and then be transferred to the cows, but it still has to get into the cows before they become diseased.

Transmission of salmonella is via the faeces so, in this example, the biosecurity of salmonella is all about stopping human faeces reaching the cows. This means that we must provide our staff with good toilet facilities and keep them clean so staff are happy to use them. As there is always the possibility of hand contamination, a hand wash facility with a hand drier or paper towels should be close to the lavatory.

There is still a need in some countries to ensure staff do not urinate or defecate in dairy stalls. This practice must not occur as cows are curious animals and human faeces may seem quite appealing and nutritious to a cow.