



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

Secure Milk Supply Plans: Improvements and Successes

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BACKGROUND

- Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) is a foreign animal disease that poses a threat to animal welfare and international agricultural trade.
- Biosecurity protocols are necessary for prevention of certain diseases including FMD.
- The Secure Milk Supply (SMS) Plan is an enhanced biosecurity plan created for the prevention of FMD and other foreign animal diseases in case of an outbreak.
- The main goals of the SMS plan are business continuity, biosecurity, movement guidance, and surveillance.
- In Washington SMS plans can be completed by anyone but must be approved by the WSDA
- In the case of an outbreak putting a WSDA approved SMS plan into practice will allow the producer to get a permit for product movement.

OBJECTIVES

- Create Secure Milk Supply plans in collaboration with the Northwest Dairy Association, the producers, and the state.
- Provide a framework of biosecurity for producers in case of a breakout that is specialized to their premise.
- Identify successes and areas to improve for future SMS plan use.

METHODS

- Northwest Dairy Association managers enrolled individual milking premises to meet with the team throughout the summer
- The team met with the producer to initially discuss the purpose and importance of the plan and a general overview of what the conversation would look like.
- Following the Secure Milk Supply template questions were asked about the following topics:
 - Contact information
 - Training
 - Line of Separation and Cleaning and Disinfection Station
 - Vehicles and Equipment
 - Personnel
 - Animal Movement
 - Animal Products
 - Carcass Disposal
 - Manure Management
 - Rodent and Wildlife Control
 - Feed
- With the help of the producer the team created a premise map draft dictating a line of separation, cleaning and disinfection.
- The team finalized the plan from the draft created during the farm visit.
- A binder was created with the plan, map, and resources.
- A follow-up visit was planned where the team presented the finalized plan along with resources to the producer.



Figure 1: Part of the team at a participating dairy

RESULTS AND FIGURES



Figure 2: Example of Premise map made by team

LABELED PREMISES MAP
Premises Address: [list]
Prem ID or PIN: [list]
Label your premises map with the following (either by hand or electronically):

- Public road
- Line of Separation (LOS)
- LOS Access Point
- Vehicle cleaning and disinfection (C&D) station(s)
- Designated parking area
- Milk truck route to milk house
- Milk house
- Carcass disposal/pickup location
- Carcass removal pathways
- Deliveries (non-essential to the dairy)
- Line of separation during harvest

Figure 3: Legend for Premise map

Line of Separation

Biosecurity is one component of the SMS and SBS plans. The line of separation is a clearly identified boundary around or within a premises to separate off-farm from on-farm movements. Think of it as a moat around your castle and the drawbridge is the access point—controlled by the operation. You decide when to lower the drawbridge and let in the milk truck, livestock truck or any other vehicle after it has been cleaned and disinfected.

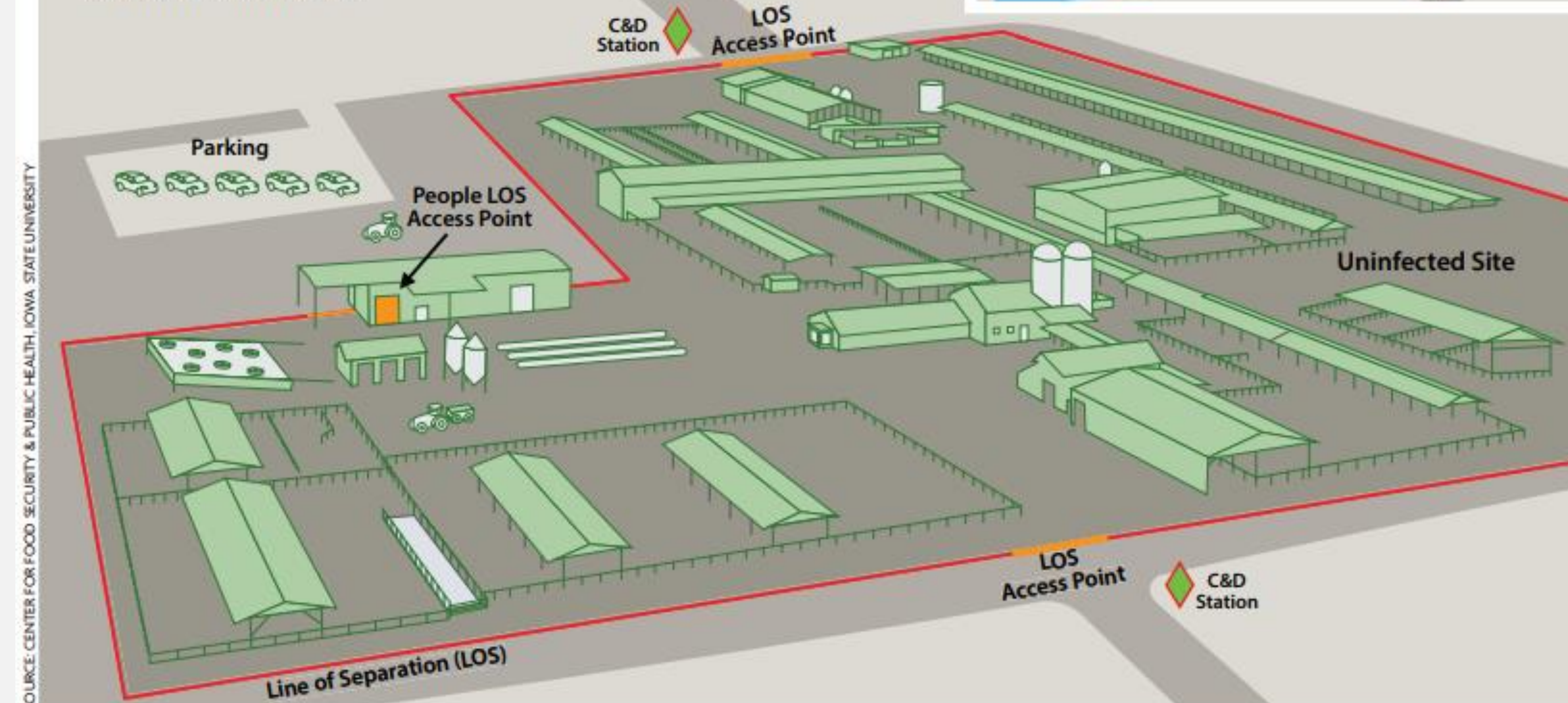
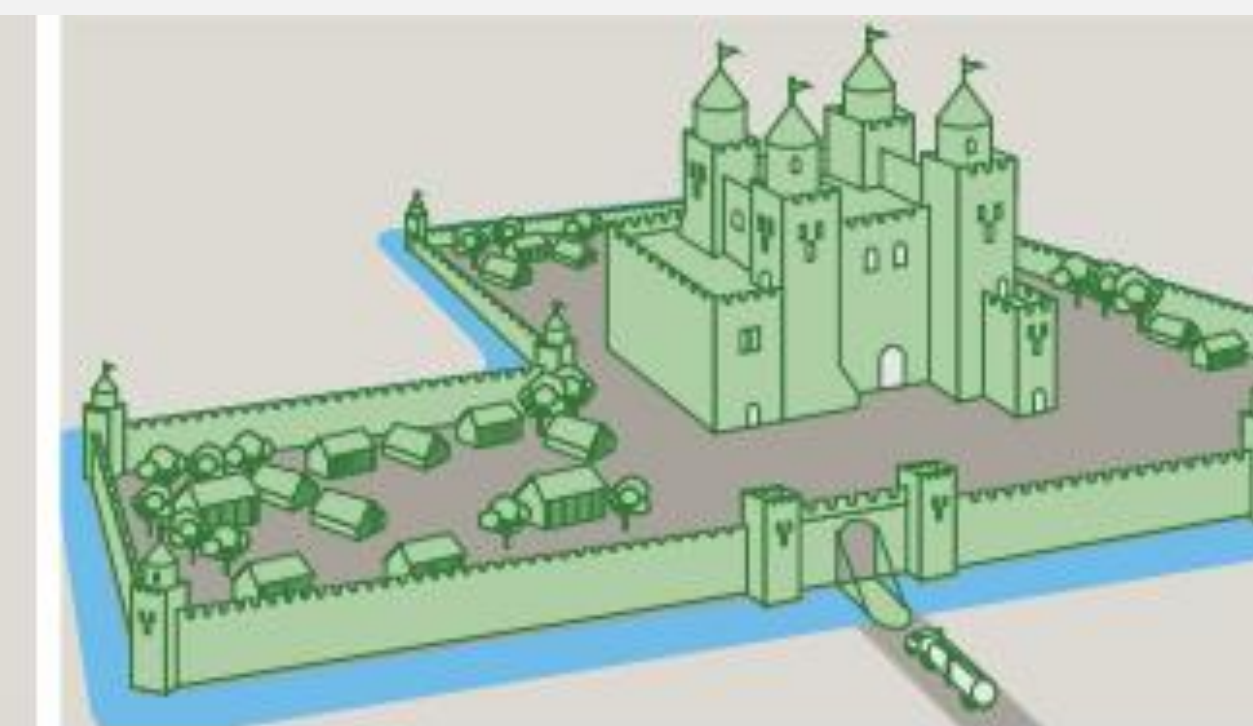


Figure 4: Infographic explaining the Line of Separation

DISCUSSION

- After applying the Secure Milk Supply Plan to 40 individual milking premises there were several areas identified for improvement:
- Face coverings for farm employees as human nasal passages can act as a vessel for the spread of disease.
 - The separation of high-risk vehicles from on farm vehicles using designated traffic patterns.
 - Unified local/regional plan development to account for the aerosolization of FMD in locations where there are large numbers and high densities of cattle.
 - Creation of plans suitable for calf ranches and growers who don't generally have the capability of managing fresh cows and calves in case of a shut down.
 - Acknowledgement of the importance of traceability/cattle identification given that FMD can be shed from cattle up to 3 days before clinical signs.
 - In case of a large culling event, it would be beneficial for the plan to dig deeper into carcass disposal including regulatory oversight.

CONCLUSION

Based on our experiences, the successful implementation of Secure Milk Supply Plans is inherently dependent upon collaborative relationships between processors, producers, and state regulatory authorities. It was also essential to create a realistic and practical plan based on the individual location, in that having the producer deeply involved in the creation of the plan was necessary. We found that the follow-up meeting proved to be an extremely helpful resource for building trust with the producer, reaffirming the importance of the SMS plan, and explaining in greater depth the details of the plan and how to accomplish them.

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