

Goat Biosecurity Workshop Farm Case Study

This fictional farm example will illustrate and explain some of the key biosecurity points outlined in the National Biosecurity Standards. The questions related to the farm case will prepare you for completing your own farm self-assessment and action plan.

Farm Management and Lay-out:

Fred and Wilma Stone own a 300-doe dairy goat operation. Both work full-time on the farm. They have two children, 10-year old Patricia and eight-year old Brian. The farm is comprised of 100 acres with a retrofitted bank barn used for the does and kids. Wooden penning divides the milking does, dry does, and kids into various groups. The Stones have plans for a new coverall when they can cash flow the capital expenditure. The bucks are housed separately from the does and kids in a smaller barn along with a couple of riding horses.

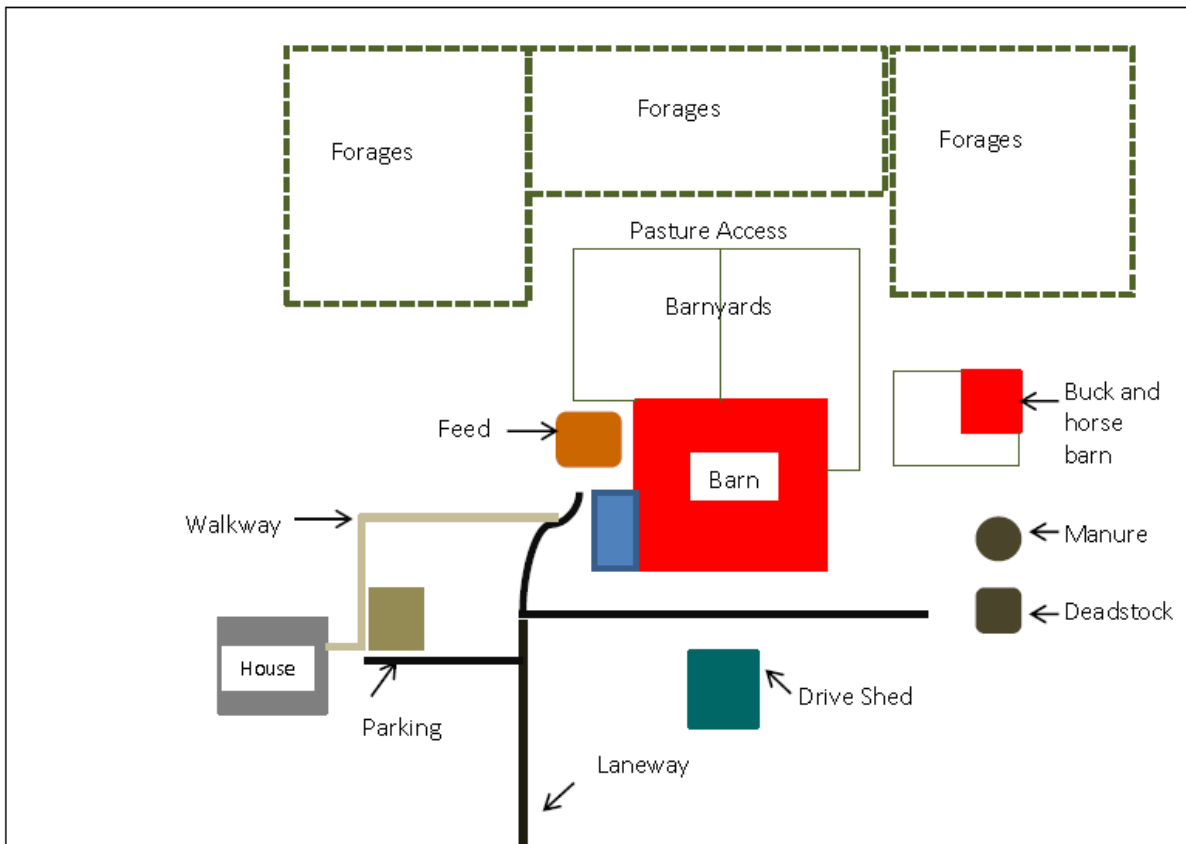
There is one primary laneway to the property which branches off toward the house, the milk house or toward the back of the barn. (See diagram on following page) There is a parking area at the house and, while not signed as parking, is quite distinguishable as it is a square, gravelled area. There is also a five foot gravel perimeter around the milk house. The milk truck picks up milk every other day and the driver always signs the visitor log book kept in the milk house. The door to the milk house is always kept firmly closed as Patricia has two housecats that try to sneak into the barn when they are let outside. The water used in the barn is tested in the spring and fall and there has never been a concern regarding its quality or bacterial count.

Wilma keeps a footbath just inside the entrance to the milk house and is diligent about asking visitors to scrub their boots with a brush she keeps handy before stepping into the footbath. She used to have disposable boots for visitors but could never find the box when she needed it so opted for the footbath. There is also a bottle of hand sanitizer somewhere in the milk house.

Their farm is situated at a concession road intersection so there are adjacent landowners on only two sides. The property to the North is county managed forest and to the East is a sheep farm. Eight-year old Brian is good friends with the young boy that lives on that farm and spends a lot of afternoons there in the summer playing around their farm. The sheep flock is grazed on pasture but the Stones don't pasture graze their goat herd so are not concerned about disease spread between the two farms. Their pasture lands have been reseeded and are now used for forages. Other feed is purchased from the local mill and bedding from a dairy farm one concession over that produces more wheat straw from their cash crop operation than is needed for their dairy herd.

Fred and Wilma keep two to three bucks and also use artificial insemination. There are designated kidding pens and sick pens. Fred and Wilma scrape out and spray down the sick pens with disinfectant after use. Fred painted the handles red on the shovels and forks to be used for cleaning out the pens so that they wouldn't accidentally be used for feed. They work very closely with a herd veterinarian and read about Q-Fever and the potential risks to goat and sheep workers in some literature he left them. Since then they are careful to properly handle placenta using nitrile gloves and N-95 dust masks. They put placenta and deadstock in a disposal vessel located behind the barn near the manure storage.

Diagram of Farm Layout



Farm Case Study Questions

In many cases, there is no single correct answer. The choice of action may depend on several factors, and what is practical and achievable under the circumstances.

1. Where and by what methods might this farm establish their CAZ, RAZ and CAPs?
2. List **three** access management issues faced by this farm and identify some possible changes they could make to reduce these risks.
3. Identify **three** biosecurity risks on this farm related to animal health management and suggest how these risks could be mitigated.
4. Identify **three** operational management biosecurity risks with this farm and list some possible solutions.
5. What is this farm doing that would be considered good biosecurity practices? List at least **five**.