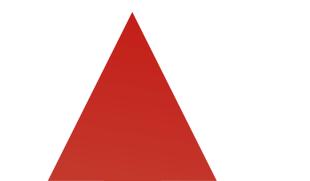


Finnish Food Safety Authority Evira

What motivates farmers to improve on-farm biosecurity?

Motivates most



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- Willingness to protect own animals

Willingness to prevent disease transmission to other farms

Pride in own farm and animals

- Instructions from veterinarian
- Guidelines from abattoirs and dairy industry
- Own traditions

Guidelines from authorities

- Instructions from production consult
- Reports on diseases in newspapers
- Courses and education Example, opinions and experience of others Disease situation in Finland Disease situation in neighboring farms Guidelines from production agency or other community

Earlier disease problems on the farm

The aim was to understand what affects farmers to implement biosecurity measures on their farms.

A questionnaire was sent to 4000 cattle and pig farmers in Finland with questions regarding the on-farm biosecurity. Responses were received from 1656 farmers.

Questions asked:

The implementation of biosecurity measures has been influenced by the following statements (indicate for every statement: not at all, a little, somewhat, much, very much)

The willingness to improve biosecurity has decreased by (mark the ones that apply)

Not able to influence the biosecurity

Guidelines from authorities
Improvement is too laborious

Not able to influence the spread of disease to my farm

Will retire soon

Will quit the production in nearby future

Low possibility to get financing for the improvement Controversial or unreliable knowledge about the benefits Low cost-benefit

Few animal diseases in Finland

Satisfied with the biosecurity on the farm

Expensive

The attempt to protect the own animals from disease has been the most important reason to implement biosecurity on the farm.

The willingness to improve the biosecurity has decreased mainly because the farmer sees no reason to improve. There seems to be also economic reasons that decrease the motivation.

Conclusions

These results should be taken into consideration when improvement of the on-farm biosecurity is at hand.

In order to increase the biosecurity level on farms, it should be stressed how much the improvements increase the protection of the own farm animals. Preferably the information should be distributed by the local veterinarian.



Economic incentives and information about costs might also promote the willingness to improve biosecurity.

Demotivates most

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