

BIOSECURITY LESSON PLAN



SUBJECT

Animal Health + Food Systems

TOPIC

Understanding Biosecurity on Canadian Chicken Farms

FOCUS

Middle School

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Understand the purpose of biosecurity on Canadian chicken farms.
- Identify common biosecurity practices used to protect poultry flocks.
- Explain how biosecurity helps keep chickens healthy and supports Canada's food supply.
- Recognize key features of a commercial chicken farm and their role in animal health.
- Apply observation and critical thinking skills to identify biosecurity measures on a poultry farm.

MATERIALS

- Farm Activity Sheet
- Pencils and/or Highlighters

REFERENCES

- Chicken Farmers of Canada – Biosecurity, animal care, and Canadian chicken farming
- Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) – Animal health and disease prevention

INTRODUCTION

Biosecurity is one of the most important practices on a Canadian chicken farm. It is a series of measures farmers use to prevent disease from entering or spreading throughout their flocks. From gates and biosecurity signs to controlled barn access and clean equipment, every part of the farm plays a role in keeping chickens healthy. In this lesson, students will explore the features of a commercial chicken farm and discover how biosecurity helps protect animal health and Canada's food supply.

ENGAGEMENT

Activity: Biosecurity Investigation

Students work individually or in pairs using the Poultry in Motion Activity Guide. Begin by asking students:

"If you were responsible for keeping 25,000 chickens healthy, what things would you need on your farm?"

Students first complete the matching activity by identifying the equipment and locations found throughout the poultry farm.

Once complete, challenge students to become Biosecurity Detectives. Working with a partner, students examine the completed farm illustration and identify which features help protect the flock from disease.

For each item, students discuss:

- What is its purpose?
- How might it help keep chickens healthy?
- What could happen if it wasn't used properly?

Students share one example with the class before discussing how all of these systems work together to protect the flock.

Examples may include:

- Gate
- Biosecurity Sign
- Service Room
- Feed Silos
- Feed Pans
- Water Lines
- Vents
- Truck Wash Station

GROUP DISCUSSION

- **Q: Which parts of the farm help protect the chickens from disease?**

A: Features like the gate, biosecurity sign, service room, and controlled barn access help keep germs away from the flock.

- **Q: Why is the gate one of the first things visitors see?**

A: The gate reminds people that access to the farm is controlled to help protect the chickens from disease.

- **Q: Why do farmers limit who enters the barn?**

A: People can accidentally carry germs on their boots, clothing, or equipment. Limiting visitors helps keep the flock healthy.

- **Q: Why are clean feed and water so important?**

A: Chickens need clean food and fresh water to stay healthy and grow properly. Contaminated feed or water can spread disease.

- **Q: Why do farmers work hard to prevent disease instead of treating it after it spreads?**

A: Preventing disease helps keep chickens healthy, protects other farms, and ensures a safe, reliable supply of chicken for Canadians.

FINAL REVIEW

Ask students:

Looking at the entire farm, which three things do you think are most important for protecting the flock?

Have students explain their reasoning using evidence from the activity sheet.

Finish by reinforcing that every part of the farm—from the gate to the feed system to the ventilation—plays a role in keeping birds healthy and helping Canadian farmers provide a safe, reliable food supply.