Best Practices for Farms

The following are best practices to help farmers keep their workforce healthy, their food products safe, and to protect their businesses as much as possible during this COVID-19 outbreak. Farmers are encouraged to continue these best practices and integrate them into their farm hygiene and sanitation systems to ensure their on-farm health and hygiene standards remain at a high level into the future.

KEY TAKE-AWAYS FOR FARMERS:

- Improve your farm’s hygiene and sanitation programs by making them more frequent and in-depth.
- Have ill employees stay at home.
- Keep high-touch surfaces clean and disinfected.
- Reduce numbers of customers at points of sale at any one time.
- Using physical distancing of at least 6 feet whenever possible or use/require face coverings when physical distancing is not possible.
- Stay informed and responsive by checking updates on the CDC, CDPHE, and your local public health websites.


1. Do not allow sick employees to come to work. It is very possible for them to make other workers ill due to the high levels of contagion observed with COVID-19. If employees become sick while on the job, have them go home. Wait 24 hours before cleaning and disinfecting all areas used by the infected employee.

2. Train all employees to wash their hands correctly, using soap and water:
   - After using the restroom
   - Before and after eating, and taking breaks
   - After blowing their nose, coughing, or sneezing or touching their faces
   - After touching an animal, animal feed, or animal waste
   - After contacting high-touch surfaces or shared equipment
   - Before putting on gloves

3. Gloves: Require the use of disposable gloves for employees who are accepting payment from customers or are directly handling produce at points of sale and provide training for all employees who are using gloves on how to properly put on, remove, and dispose of them.

4. Face coverings: Train employees on the correct way to put on and remove face coverings, ensuring not to contaminate them through handling. When using masks: 1) wash hands before putting them on; 2) make with multiple layers of fabric; 3) it mask snugly against the side of the face; 4) allow for breathing without restriction; and 5) launder after each use. More from CDC on using face coverings. Note that N-95 masks are in high demand by health care workers and should be prioritized for their use.

5. Maintain physical (social) distancing of 6 feet between employees, and have employees wear face coverings when physical distancing is not possible.