

Biosecurity in Action

The cost of quarantine

While looking at the costs of having a beef traceability system some benefits have to be accrued for this over and above any management benefit. Most of the attention has been given to primary benefits of getting to the bottom of a disease situation and getting on with business. They usually look at maintaining an open border and the costs of either not having to close the border or getting it open as soon as possible.

One area that can be explored directly is costs of having cattle under quarantine for some period with the expectation that the quarantine would be lifted and business would resume. Some estimated costs can be done around this.

Using a US model, the estimated costs of not being able to ship cattle when ready to go are:

- For a 40,000 head feedlot with a quarantine situation for four weeks the extra costs would be about \$125,000; for 10 weeks this would be just under \$1 million!
- For a 10,000 head feedlot, a four-week quarantine would cost an extra \$31,000; the 10-week cost would be about \$230,000.

Jeri Stroade and Ted C. Schroeder, Estimated Cost to a Commercial Feedlot of a Quarantine, Kansas State University, NAIBER Fact Sheet No. 07, 2007.

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