Line of Separation (LOS) and Animal Load-out/Load-in Examples: Feedlots

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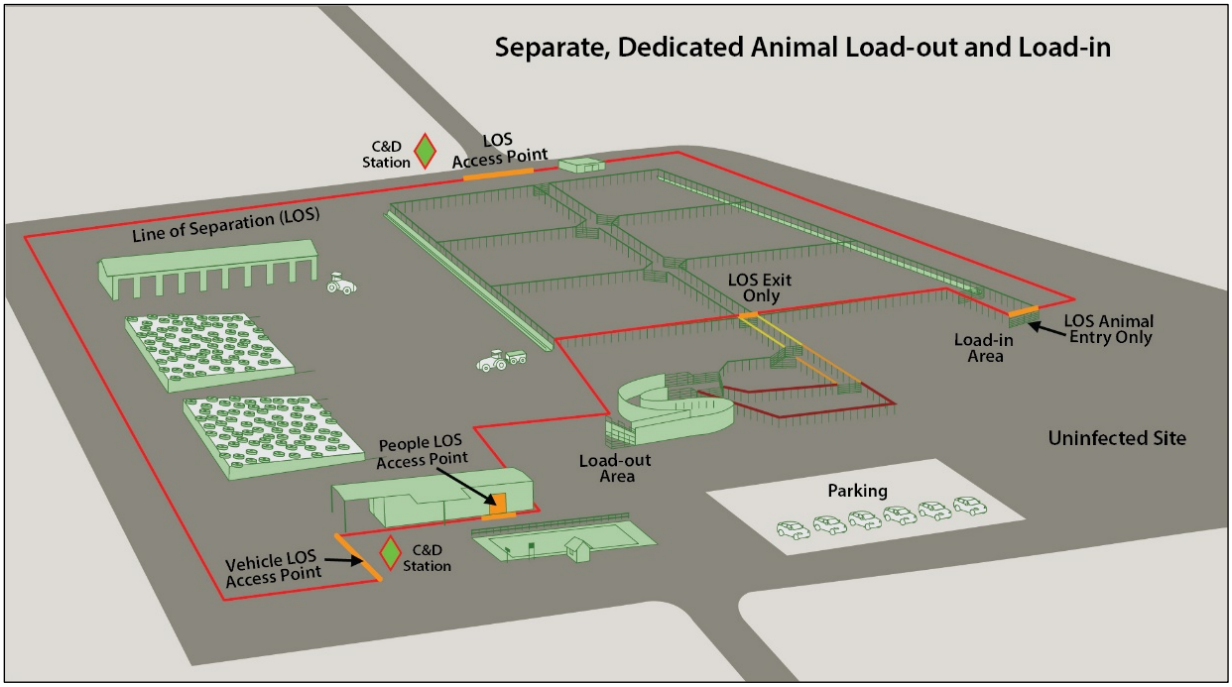
Figure 1: Illustration of a Feedlot with Separate, Dedicated Animal Load-out and Load-in Areas Outside the Line of Separation (LOS)

This example feedlot demonstrates the concepts of the LOS. In this example, the LOS is around the perimeter of the operation with two LOS Access Points, each with a cleaning and disinfection (C&D) station. The layout and direct route to the animal load-out and load-in sites allows the livestock truck to remain outside the LOS. There are separate and dedicated load-out and load-in facilities with a staged animal load-out process demonstrated. There is a separate LOS Access Point for people to enter.



Livestock trucks/trailers that remain outside the LOS may not have undergone effective C&D prior to arrival. Effective C&D of livestock trucks/trailers can be challenging if there are not enough commercial truck washes in your area and/or if there are several load-outs needed in a short amount of time. On-farm C&D of livestock trucks/trailers may be difficult due to a lack of water access, inclement weather, and difficulties capturing runoff from the C&D process if required by regulatory agencies.

If C&D is not possible, then the livestock truck/trailer **MUST**:

- Not cross the LOS, **AND**
- Not drive close to susceptible animals staying on the operation, **AND**
  - Be destined for a terminal location (slaughter plant),
    - OR -
  - Be used ONLY for animals originating in the same flock (no commingling or sharing trailers).

If it is not possible to C&D the livestock truck/trailer, then the load-out/load-in area **MUST** be:

- Staged for load-out as shown in Figure 2 to ensure sheep, and personnel moving the sheep, cannot carry contamination from the truck/trailer and the load-out facility back across the LOS,
  - **AND** -
  - Made of non-porous materials that can be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected (C&D) under all weather conditions before sheep load-in to prevent potential exposure.
    - **OR** -
  - Two separate areas (see Figure 1), each dedicated to one task – either animal load-out or load-in – and located at some distance from each other that prevents cross-contamination of vehicles, personnel, equipment, and animal waste.

Figure 2. Staged Animal Load-Out

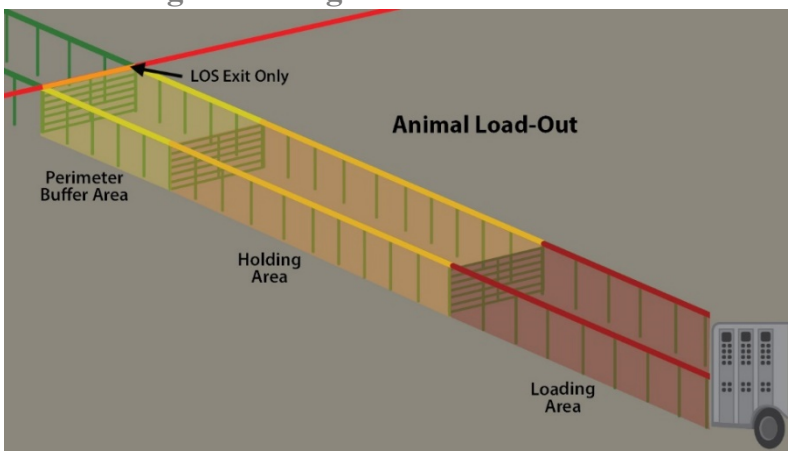
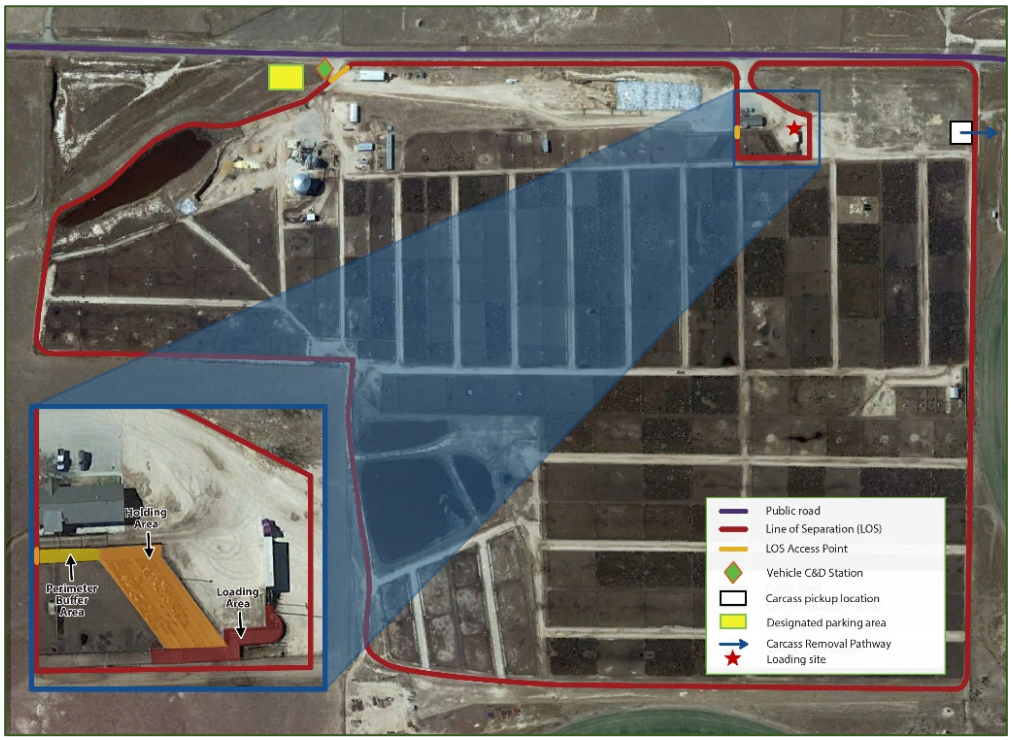


Figure 3: Livestock Truck/Trailer is Outside the LOS with a Single Load-out/ Load-in Area

The example feedlot in Figure 3 demonstrates the layout and direct route to the animal load-out and load-in sites allows the livestock truck/trailer to remain outside the LOS. In this example there is only a single shared load-out and load-in area. If it is not possible to C&D the livestock truck/trailer, then the load-out/load-in area **MUST** be staged for load-out as shown in Figure 2 to ensure sheep, and personnel moving the sheep, cannot carry contamination from the truck/trailer and the load-out facility back across the LOS AND the Perimeter Buffer Area, Holding Area, Loading Area, and loading chute is made of non-porous materials that can be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected (C&D) under all weather conditions before sheep load-in to prevent potential exposure. Individuals working on the feedlot are responsible for C&D of the area after animal load-out as it is likely that the Holding Area and Loading Area may become contaminated while animals are being loaded out. See the *SSWS Information Manual for FMD Prevention: Sheep Feedlots*, Section 6: Animal Load-out and Load-in for the specific biosecurity steps to load-out/load-in animals.



Feedlots need to maintain the load-out/load-in area as an LOS Access Point for sheep entry/exit, not people.

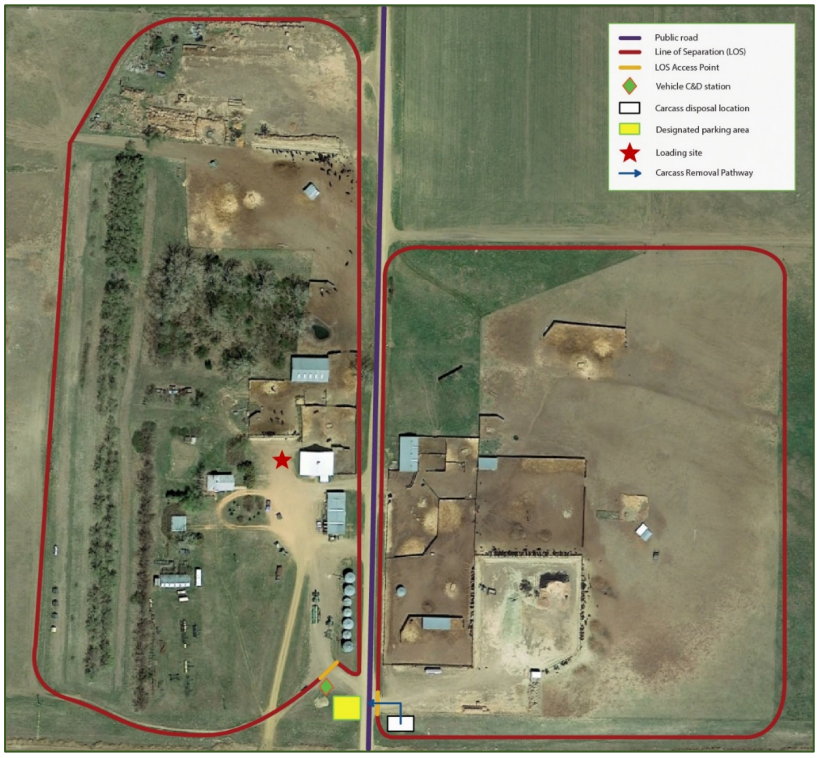
Unless they remain in the cab, the transporter would perform all sheep loading activities from the truck/trailer side of the LOS and individuals working on the feedlot would follow the staged load-out procedures as described in *SSWS Information Manual for FMD Prevention: Sheep Feedlots*, Section 6: Animal Load-out and Load-in.

Below is a brief checklist to determine if a feedlot can use either of these options shown in Figures 1 and 3. **All criteria** should be met to minimize introduction of FMD virus from the livestock truck/trailer and driver:

- ☐ Load-out/load-in area site is adjacent to a public road and livestock truck does not cross LOS to load sheep
- ☐ Drive path leading to the loading site does not pass close to susceptible animals
- ☐ Load-out/load-in area does not slope towards animal housing or holding areas
- ☐ The driver remains outside the LOS
- ☐ The LOS Access Point in the load-out/load-in area(s) must be marked in a way that is always visible to individuals moving animals, even during load-out (when the floor/ground may be covered with manure and debris)
- ☐ There is a staged load-out area with a Perimeter Buffer Area, Holding Area, and Loading Area
- ☐ The load-out/load-in area and loading chute must be made of non-porous materials that can be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected (C&D) under all weather conditions before sheep load-in to prevent potential exposure.
- ☐ The load-out/load-in area is for sheep only; people enter through a separate LOS Access Point following biosecurity steps.
- ☐ Individuals working on the feedlot are trained in
    - Staged animal load-out procedures
    - Proper cleaning and disinfection (C&D) protocols for the entire loading site
    - Proper protective gear donning, doffing, and disposal for C&D procedures

Figure 4: Vehicle Crosses the LOS

This option contains an example of a feedlot where the load-out/load-in area is within the LOS (blue arrow). This would require a livestock truck undergo C&D at the LOS Access Point before crossing the LOS to limit FMD virus entry.



Livestock truck/trailer, commodity truck, and transporter/driver, cross the LOS Access Point onto the sheep side of the LOS to load/unload sheep or commodities.

- C&D of livestock truck/trailer or commodity truck required prior to crossing the LOS
- Driver must follow biosecurity entry procedures when exiting the cab inside the LOS