

# Summary of Changes to the SBS and SSWS Enhanced Biosecurity documents: Grazing Public Lands

April 2024

The American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) received funding from the USDA NADPRP to develop movement decision criteria for livestock grazing federal public lands in and around FMD Control Areas. This was done in collaboration with the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association and an advisory group consisting of public land grazing stakeholders including Western States sheep and cattle producers, the Public Lands Council (PLC), State Animal Health Officials (SAHO), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), USDA Wildlife Services (WS), USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). As a result of this project, a section on “Grazing Public Lands” with the language shown below has been included in the Biosecurity Checklist and Information Manual for Pasture/Rangeland and both Plan Templates (type and write-in). Ranchers with base property are encouraged to develop an enhanced biosecurity plan for that premises using the species appropriate enhanced biosecurity resources.

To ensure alignment and transparency in edits, each is listed below (underline indicates new; ~~cross-out~~ indicates deleted). The Feedlot Biosecurity Checklist and Information Manuals remain unchanged. All updated documents are dated April 2024.

## Self-Assessment Checklist for Enhanced Biosecurity for FMD Prevention (Cattle on Pasture; Sheep on Pasture/Rangeland)

### Under “Target Audience”

~~Sheep grazed on public lands have some unique FMD exposure risk challenges. Public land grazers need to be aware of the exposure risks and implement strict, enhanced biosecurity procedures wherever possible to protect the flock. In addition to this checklist, please refer to the document: *Considerations for Enhanced Biosecurity for Sheep Grazing on Public Land Allotments* at: [https://secursheepwool.org/Assets/SSWS\\_Enhanced\\_Biosecurity\\_Considerations\\_Public\\_Lands.pdf](https://secursheepwool.org/Assets/SSWS_Enhanced_Biosecurity_Considerations_Public_Lands.pdf)~~

Cattle grazed on public lands have some unique FMD exposure risk challenges. Public land grazers need to be aware of the exposure risks as described in the [Management Practices and FMD Exposure Risks for Sheep and Cattle Grazing Federal Public Lands](#) document found on the SBS Grazing Public Lands web page at: <https://www.securebeef.org/beef-producers/public-land-grazing/>. Also on that web page is the *“Just-in-Time Biosecurity and Exposure Questionnaire for FMD: Livestock Grazing Public Lands”*. State or Federal Animal Health Officials may request completion of that document when ranchers apply for a movement permit from a Control Area involving public lands. Producers are encouraged to develop an enhanced biosecurity plan that meets the items in this checklist for their base property if livestock reside there at any time.

## 3. Protecting the Flock/Herd

### Grazing Public Lands

The Biosecurity Manager and those overseeing cattle/sheep grazing public lands are aware of FMD exposure risks. They can describe just-in-time biosecurity steps (through records, interviews, or observations) for livestock grazing public lands when requested.

- In place                       In progress                       Not in place  
 Does not apply (explanation included in the biosecurity plan)

## **Information Manual for Pasture/Rangelands**

### **3. Protecting the Flock**

#### **Line of Separation**

~~Creating an effective Line of Separation (LOS) for livestock grazing vast open rangelands is not realistic. Sheep grazed on public lands have some unique FMD exposure risk challenges. Public land grazers need to be aware of the exposure risks and implement strict, enhanced biosecurity procedures wherever possible to protect the flock. In addition to this checklist, please refer to the document: *Considerations for Enhanced Biosecurity for Sheep Grazing on Public Land Allotments* in Appendix A and at: [https://seuresheepwool.org/Assets/SSWS\\_Enhanced\\_Biosecurity\\_Considerations\\_Public\\_Lands.pdf](https://seuresheepwool.org/Assets/SSWS_Enhanced_Biosecurity_Considerations_Public_Lands.pdf)~~

#### **Grazing Public Lands**

Sheep/Cattle grazed on public lands have some unique FMD exposure risk challenges. Creating an effective Line of Separation (LOS) for livestock grazing vast open rangelands is not realistic. Public land grazers need to be aware of the exposure risks as described in the [Management Practices and FMD Exposure Risks for Sheep and Cattle Grazing Federal Public Lands](#) document found on the SSWS [Grazing Public Lands](https://seuresheepwool.org/producers/public-land-grazing/) web page at: <https://seuresheepwool.org/producers/public-land-grazing/>. Also on that web page is the “*Just-in-Time Biosecurity and Exposure Questionnaire for FMD: Livestock Grazing Public Lands*”. State or Federal Animal Health Officials may request completion of that document when producers apply for a movement permit from a Control Area involving public lands. They may also conduct interviews with ranchers or observe practices (in person or virtually) to collect this information. Producers are encouraged to develop an enhanced biosecurity plan that meets the items in the *Self-Assessment Checklist for Enhanced Biosecurity for FMD Prevention* for their base property if livestock reside there at any time.

## **Enhanced Biosecurity Template**

### **Scope of Biosecurity Plan**

- This operation grazes on public lands some part of the year [Yes or No]

### **Grazing Public Lands**

(Pick one, delete the other; modify as needed)

- This operation does not use public lands for grazing.

OR

- Our cattle graze public lands [LIST MONTHS OF THE YEAR]. We [ARE/ARE NOT] part of a grazing association.

Our Biosecurity Manager and those overseeing cattle grazing public lands are aware of FMD exposure risks. They have reviewed the guidance described in the [Management Practices and FMD Exposure Risks for Sheep and Cattle Grazing Federal Public Lands](#) document found on the SBS Grazing Public Lands web page at: <https://www.securebeef.org/beef-producers/public-land-grazing/>.

We will work with animal health officials and describe just-in-time biosecurity steps for livestock grazing public lands if requested.