# SOP #14 – Returning Cattle to the Herd

*(Question BIO5, July 2023 Reference Manual pages 4-13 to 4-14. All shaded areas are required elements of your SOP. You may use your own words to communicate the same intent.)*

*NOTE: If the procedure you use for returning cattle is the same as for new cattle entering your herd, you can combine SOP #13 with SOP #14.*

Purpose: All farm personnel must understand the process for properly accepting an animal returning to your facility in a manner that limits the potential for pathogens to be introduced into your herd.

* No cattle leave the farm and return for show purposes or otherwise.
* Veterinary procedures (such as surgeries) are performed on farm in a designated area. Cattle do not leave the farm for treatment.

However, should a scenario present itself and we must bring cattle back to our herd we will do the following:

* Once animal(s) have returned to the farm we unload and house them in the following designated area:­­­­­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* These cattle are confined for a minimum of\_\_\_\_\_ days with no contact with other cattle and monitored for signs of illness, including parasites and hoof disease.
* These cattle are observed and examined at least once daily by the following trained staff: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* The trained staff:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ will monitor and respond to any abnormalities according to farm protocols. Signs of illness to check include:

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* Any personnel handling returning cattle must wash their hands, wear gloves, change their clothing and disinfect or change their footwear before working with other animals on the farm. If cattle appear healthy, prior to introduction into the herd the following actions are performed (confirmation of pregnancy or reproductive status, hoof trimming, vaccination, testing etc):

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* We try to reduce the risk when introducing cattle while off farm by incorporating biosecurity measures such as:
  + Protecting cattle from contact with other cattle or animals during transport and in housing at fairs, shows, displays, sales, etc.
  + Prevent cattle from coming in contact with manure, bedding, animals and other products from other farms.
  + Use our own equipment (including milking, handling, grooming and clipping).
  + Use our own watering equipment and don’t allow drinking from a common trough.
  + Transport cattle in clean, farm-specific vehicles. Use, if possible, the same area/pen/stall for the duration of an event.