

Thank you for your interest in partnering with the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (MDACF) and the University of Maine Cooperative Extension on this project: **Reaching All Farm-Raised Animals: Assessment, Outreach and Education on Farm Biosecurity and Disease Outbreak Preparedness in Maine for Small and Diverse Livestock Farms.**

Project Summary:

The purpose of this project is to understand the animal health situation in Maine, including disease prevalence and knowledge, attitudes, needs, and practices of small farm and backyard livestock owners to guide disease prevention and response. A second purpose is to implement biosecurity measures with an option to create individual biosecurity plans. Lastly, to improve relationships and trust among small-holding farmers, state animal health regulators, university livestock specialists and veterinarians so that accurate animal health information is readily sought and shared in this group.

Participation in this project is estimated to take 5-10 hours over a 1–2-year period by attending a local animal health and production workshop that includes training on biosecurity. Some attendees will be awarded animal health testing at the Maine Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. Results from the tests will be shared with the client and their veterinarian and the project leaders will summarize data from this testing. This data will be presented in summary form and results from individual farms will remain anonymous. Participation can include an agreement to have a farm visit by state staff to help you write a biosecurity plan for your livestock operation. Lastly, participation in workshops and in biosecurity planning will allow UMaine Cooperative Extension to retain your contact information to invite you to participate in an online platform that will be a place to learn about livestock production and biosecurity topics. This platform will be unlike most social media livestock groups in that the information presented will be monitored and checked for accuracy.

To begin the project, participants will sign up for a local workshop on a topic that pertains to their livestock. Registration will include a farm profile and a biosecurity survey.

**Project Schedule:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Complete Enrollment Form on page 3 and 4 | Please complete and return, if applicable |
| Complete Partner **Farm Profile Survey** and Initial **Biosecurity Survey** (30 minutes)  | (A link will be sent to you for online surveys)  |
| Attend workshop related to your livestock. Come prepared to participate! We will ask you for feedback throughout the presentation and guide you through review of critical information. There will be time to ask your questions at the end of the meeting.  | November 2024 to December 2025  |
| On site evaluation to start a written biosecurity plan (2 hours): Each participating farm will schedule one in-person meeting with the state staff to review their current preventative health management program. You are encouraged to secure a working relationship with a farm veterinarian in your area before this visit! The meeting will include creating a written biosecurity plan.  | December 2024 to December 2025 |
| Complete **Final Biosecurity Survey** (15 minutes) | This survey will be sent to each participating farm at least 4 months after completing the on-site evaluation, biosecurity plan and surveillance testing (April 2024- February 2025) |
| Debriefing Webinar (1 hour OPTIONAL): Results of the biosecurity surveys and surveillance reports will be analyzed and interpreted and shared with all participants. | March 2026  |

The final report for this project is anticipated in **July 2026**. The report will be published to the NADPRP program website and presented to veterinarians in the state and agricultural service providers who cater to livestock producers.



***Enrollment Form***

INSTRUCTIONS: All participating farms are asked to print, read, sign and return the **Participating Farmer Release Form (2 pages)** to complete their enrollment. If you need a printed copy sent to you, please ask carol.delaney@maine.gov

This form contains the participant and eligibility statements. Please read, print and sign agreement to all statements and return this form to:

**Via mail:** -OR- Email **(scan/photo)**

**Carol Delaney carol.delaney@maine.gov**

**MDACF DAPH**

**28 State House Station**

**Augusta, Maine 04333**

**Contact information for Questions:**

Please complete and return this form as soon as possible**.** If you have any questions about this form or need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us. You may reach out to **Carol Delaney** at **207-215-4968** or send her an email at **carol.delaney@maine.gov****.**

**Participating Farmer Release Form**

**(page 1 of 2 pages)**

Farm Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Participant Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Farm Address (if different from above): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Participation Statement:**

My participation in this project is completely voluntary and I understand that I am free to withdraw at any time. I understand the requirements and time commitment for participation.

I have been informed that all results from surveys, in-person interviews and on-farm diagnostic testing conducted during this study will be aggregated so no one farm’s answers or results will be identifiable. I understand that my farm and all data generated from my farm will be assigned a random numeric alias and no personal identifiable information will be included in the final project report. I also understand that the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF) will not publicly disclose data generated from my farm in a personally identifiable manner except as may be required by law. I hereby request that the DACF designate any information that I provide to it in connection with my participation in this study as confidential in accordance with 7 M.R.S.A. § 20.

**By signing below, you acknowledge that you are older than 18 years of age and have read and agree to the above statements.**

**Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**