

Disinfection routines in these challenging times of Covid-19

At the moment, none of us doubt that in terms of biosafety there is 'before' and 'after' the Covid-19 outbreak that keeps the entire world population on edge. During these days we have subjected our lives to the hard confinement decreed by the authorities to try to stop the advance of the coronavirus. At the same time, we have seen how the economic activities considered non-essential are temporarily closed.

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However, even in this critical situation, workers in so-called 'essential activities' have had to keep going to their jobs. Much has been said about health personnel, to whom every day we dedicate countless expressions of admiration.

But today, from here, we want to highlight other essential workers who have also been unable to stop going to their jobs these days: livestock farmers, veterinarians, and in general all workers in the agricultural sector, who are the first link in the food chain.

We dedicate this article to them, in order to contribute as much as we can, so that they can carry out their professional activity safely, controlling the risk that their health and that of their families entails, the simple fact of having to leave their homes.

Biosecurity: key factor in the fight against Covid-19

Livestock farmers and veterinarians are more than used to fighting viruses and other microbiological threats, which periodically put the health of the animals and/or their productive performance at risk. They are aware of the importance of biosecurity management to control these micro-organisms. But this time the picture is quite different.

On this occasion, the main objective is NOT to implement strict

biosecurity protocols to prevent viruses from entering the farm and spreading among animals.

No, this time the objective is different. This time, they have to implement intelligent biosecurity programmes to avoid catching the viral threat of the moment (the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus), avoid carrying the virus to their homes, where their families live, and, in the event that they were asymptomatic carriers, avoid spreading this virus among their coworkers. This time, what is at stake is extremely valuable: the health of oneself, of their families, and Public Health.

The Health Authorities have insisted on the importance of measures such as confinement or working from home, which are not feasible for workers in this sector.

Livestock farmers, veterinarians, etc, do not have the possibility to practice their profession from home. Their jobs require travel and visits to places of animal or agricultural production, even in times of Covid-19.

For this reason, from Grupo OX, a company with more than 25 years of experience in the field of intelligent biosecurity management, we want to emphasise the importance of these professionals establishing intelligent biosecurity measures in their daily routines that guarantee protection of their health.

Essential disinfection routines

Taking into account all of the above, from Grupo OX it is recommended that every worker, be it a veterinarian, livestock farmer, etc, put in place the following basic disinfection routines to help fight Covid-19:

- Daily disinfection routines of the interior of the work vehicle, especially the surfaces that are touched by hand (door handles, dashboard, steering wheel, gear change) and mats people step on.
- Routine disinfection of the soles of the shoes/boots after each visit or work shift.
- Gloves disinfection routine after each visit or work shift.

● Daily disinfection routine of work clothes.

● Daily disinfection routines for changing rooms, toilets, rest areas, dining rooms, offices and other production facilities. Disinfection of floors, walls, railings, door handles, light switches, work surfaces, etc must be ensured.

● Daily disinfection routine of personal utensils such as mobile phone, keychain, computer keyboard, and any other personal utensil that is used outside the home and then goes back inside the house.

And yes, we reiterate the expression 'disinfection routine', because by now we are all fully aware that overcoming the Covid-19 threat will take a long time. For the sake of our health, that of our families, our coworkers, and ultimately to guarantee Public Health, we must make the basic disinfection tasks we have mentioned routine.

Importance of choosing the right product

It is important to emphasise that not all biocidal products that are used in general have proven virucidal efficacy, nor are all virucidal products recommended by health authorities to combat Covid-19.

In order that the effort exerted in the implementation of the recommended disinfection routines is to be effective, it is important to use a suitable product, with proven efficacy, that is recommended by the authorities, and that also has differentiating qualities that provide additional benefits.

To make it easier to implement disinfection routines, and avoid excessive handling of chemicals that may be toxic to people, animals and the environment, Grupo OX is committed to using 100% biodegradable biocidal products, that have demonstrated their effectiveness against enveloped viruses (a fact that is demonstrated by compliance with the UNE EN 14476 Standard), and that are on the list issued by the Authorities of virucidal products recommended for the fight against Covid-19.

In compliance with these requirements, Grupo OX offers its customers two elite biocide products with differentiating qualities: OX-VIRIN and OX-VIRIN Ready to Use.

In the case of OX-VIRIN, it is a product concentrate, which requires dilution before use. On the other hand, OX-VIRIN Ready to Use is a product for public use, which does not require dilution before use, since it is marketed ready to use directly.

Conclusions

The performance of the professional activity of livestock farmers, veterinarians and other professionals in the primary sector is essential. But for these people to carry out their work safely, protecting their health, and therefore that of their families, it is essential that they implement strict disinfection routines.

Only in this way will they be able to contribute to the fight against Covid-19.

Furthermore, it is important to emphasise that not all the virucidal products on the market are suitable for these tasks.

From Grupo OX, the use of products with proven efficacy against coronavirus is recommended, which are included in the list of products recommended by the Authorities for the fight against Covid-19. ■

Thank you

Finally, from Grupo OX, we want to take the opportunity to thank all these professionals: veterinarians, livestock farmers, and other workers in the primary sector, whose professional activity is essential, even in times of Covid-19. Thanks for your effort!

For our part, at Grupo OX we will continue to contribute responsibly to the fight against the pandemic, putting at your disposal the necessary tools to guarantee the implementation of intelligent biosafety routines.