**Critical control points for mitigation of zoonosis in small ruminants**

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**Critical Control Point**

**Definition:**

A critical control point is a point, step, or technique in which controls can be utilized that can prevent, decrease, or eliminate a food safety hazard.

**Herd/Flock Maintenance**

1. Observe animals for health status daily.
2. Report sick or dead animals.
   1. Note health problems such as diarrhea, difficulty breathing, depression, and immobile.
   2. Take extra caution in cleaning the areas around ill animals.
   3. Do not spread possible pathogens.
   4. Isolate affected animals as appropriate.
   5. Record history or progression of animal disease.

**Environmental Maintenance**

1. Keep animal housing areas well organized and clean.
2. Avoid urine and fecal build-up. Dry feces result in fecal dust which may be inhaled.
3. Clean rooms or pastures have a lower likelihood of horizontal or zoonotic transfer.
4. Clean feed and bedding from floors. Litter attracts vermin which may introduce a zoonotic disease into the facility**.**

**Proper Personal Hygiene**

1. Wash hands before and after animal handling.
2. Do not eat or drink in the animal housing areas.
3. Wear coveralls, farm-specific clothing, or laboratory coats when handling animals.
4. Avoid handling sick animals or animals with lesions unless gloved.
5. Wear a mask if you are allergic to animal hair or dander or if feed or bedding dust is present.
6. If you are sick, DO NOT enter the agricultural animal facilities. You are more susceptible to other infective agents, and you may transfer pathogens to the animals!
7. Routinely wear gloves when cleaning the animal area.

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