

Lesson 8.1 Glossary

A

APHIS – Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

B

Bacteria (Singular Bacterium) – Single-celled microorganisms; some cause human, animal, or plant diseases; others are beneficial.

Bacteriophage – A virus like, bacteria-destroying agent that can propagate itself only in the presence of young, active, susceptible bacteria.

C

Carrier – Animal or person in apparently good health who harbors pathogenic microorganisms.

CDC – Center for Disease Control.

Contagion – Spread of disease by direct or indirect contact.

Contagious disease – A disease transmitted or spread from animal to animal, person to person, or from plant to plant, by direct or indirect contact with the diseased plant or animal.

CPSC – Consumer Product Safety Commission.

D

Disease – Any deviation from a normal state of health in plants, animals, or people, which temporarily impairs vital functions. It may be caused by viruses, pathogenic bacteria, parasites, poor nutrition, congenital or inherent deficiencies, unfavorable environment, or any combination of these.

E

EPA – Environmental Protection Agency.

Eukaryote – A cell that contains a nucleus and membrane-bound organelles.

F

FDA – Food and Drug Administration.

Fomite – Substance other than food that may harbor or transmit a disease.

Foot-and-Mouth Disease – An acute, highly communicable disease of cloven-footed animals caused by pus formation on the soft tissues between the toes. It occurs especially in wet ground in sheep and cattle.

FSIS – Food Safety and Inspection Service.

Fungus (Singular Fungi) – A lower order of plant organisms, excluding bacteria, which contains no chlorophyll, has no vascular system, and is not differentiated into roots, stems, or leaves. Fungi are familiar as molds, rusts, smuts, rots, and mushrooms.

H

Host – Any organism, plant or animal, in or upon which another spends part or all of its existence, and from which it derives nourishment or protection.

I

Infection – Invasion of the tissues of the body of a host by disease-producing organisms in such a way that injury results; the presence of multiplying parasites, bacteria, viruses, etc., within the body of a host.

Infectious disease – A disease caused by bacteria, protozoa, viruses, or fungi entering the body. It is not necessarily contagious or spread by contact.

M

Mold – Fungi distinguished by the formation of a mycelium (a network of filaments or threads).

N

Noninfectious disease – A disease that cannot be transmitted from one animal to another.

O

OSHA – Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

P

Pathogen – In the general sense, anything capable of causing disease, but when referred to by most veterinarians and physicians it signifies a living, microscopic, disease-producing agent such as a bacteria or virus.

Prion – Abnormal form of protein that clumps together inside a cell.

Prokaryote – A unicellular organism that lacks a nucleus and membrane-bound organelles.

Protozoa (Singular Protozoan) – A group of one-celled organisms that generally do not contain chlorophyll, including amoebae, paramecia, flagellates, and certain spore-forming organisms, sometimes classified as one-celled animals.

Q

Quarantine – A regulation under police power for the exclusion or isolation of animal and plant pests or diseases and insects: a) the isolation of an animal sick with a contagious disease; b) a place where the sick are detained away from other animals until the danger of spread of a contagious disease has disappeared.

R

Regulatory – To control or direct by a rule, principle, method, etc.

S

Systemic – Pertaining to the body as a whole and not confined to one organ or part of the body, as a systemic infection.

U

USDA – United States Department of Agriculture.

V

Vector – Any agent such as an insect or animal that transmits, carries, or spreads a disease from one plant or animal to another.

Verdant – Green with vegetation; covered with growing plants or grass.

Virus – A self-reproducing agent that is considerably smaller than a bacterium and can multiply only within the living cells of a suitable host. Most viruses are too small to be seen with the aid of the ordinary microscope.