

On-Farm Biosecurity

Fact Sheet



WHAT IS FARM BIOSECURITY?

Biosecurity refers to practices that aim to reduce the risk of introducing and spreading diseases, pests, and weeds.

Effective biosecurity:

1. Allows for early detection and management to reduce the impact of diseases, pests, and weeds.
2. Underpins farm productivity
3. Maintains market access
4. Gives consumers confidence
5. Protects the natural environment

WHAT CAN I DO ON FARM?

Effective biosecurity isn't costly or difficult to implement.

Preparing a biosecurity plan is a great starting point as it takes you through key practices, documenting what you're doing and helps identify key areas to address.



FARM INPUTS

Products entering your property pose a risk, including new livestock, feed, and water supplies.

When purchasing livestock, you can request an Animal Health Declaration (AHD), in addition to the compulsory National Vendor Declaration (NVD), which declares the livestock disease status and helps you assess the risk of introducing diseases or pests.

Once stock arrive from sale, agistment or shows, inspect their health, and keep them separate from other stock for at least 21 days. This allows signs of disease to develop and stock to empty out.

When selecting stock feed, it is important that it does not contain animal matter. Also inspect feed for other foreign material on arrival.

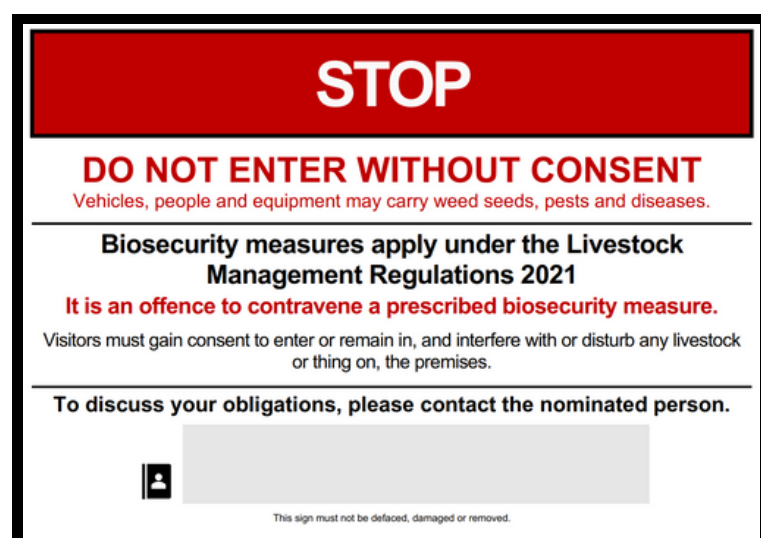
Identify waterways and drainage that could carry contaminants, faecal matter, or chemicals onto your property. Fencing these areas will reduce the risk of stock accessing contaminants.

PEOPLE, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT

People, vehicles, and equipment entering and moving around your property can pose a high risk and it is important to monitor and record their movements where possible.

Display highly visible signs to support your property's biosecurity message and control where people enter your property.

It is important that all employees and visitors are aware of the biosecurity practices on your property.



This may include a designated parking area and transporting visitors around your property in your own vehicle. High risk visitors, who may have been in contact with livestock on other properties such as vets and livestock agents, should wear clean boots and clean and disinfect any equipment.

MONITORING

Regularly monitoring livestock for unusual symptoms is key to rapid disease response. Keep watch for:

- Unexplained deaths
- Sores/ulcers/lesions on the feet or mouth
- A reluctance to eat or move
- Excessive salivation/drooling

Report any cases to your vet or the 24-hour Emergency Animal Disease Hotline

EAD HOTLINE 1800 675 888

PRODUCTION PRACTICES

Having a permanent quarantine area allows animals to be isolated if needed. If a death occurs, a disposal procedure will reduce the risk of other livestock coming into contact with the carcass.

Ensuring property and boundary fences are maintained will reduce the risk of strays entering your property, and also prevent nose-to-nose contact with neighbouring stock.

PESTS AND WEEDS

Be aware of any feral animal or weed control programs that are in place in your area, and try to coordinate your management strategies in with them.

Quarantining stock on arrival gives weed seeds time to pass through the animal's digestive tract before going out to pasture.

FARM OUTPUTS

It is important that animals leaving your property are fit to load, to minimize the risk of animal welfare issues and disease spread.

To comply with NLIS standards, stock leaving your property must be tagged appropriately, recorded on the NLIS database, and accompanied by an NVD.

TRAIN, PLAN AND RECORD

Efficiently recording livestock treatments is essential to maintain your herd health status, and to complete accurate NVD's and AHD's when stock leave your property.

It is also important to be aware of vulnerable people working on your property, ensuring they are protected against animal-to-human diseases such as Q fever, tetanus, and leptospirosis.

Make sure all family members and employees are aware of their role in effective biosecurity on your farm, and who to contact if a risk is identified.

TAKE HOME MESSAGES

Biosecurity is everyone's responsibility

When contractors arrive on your property, help them to
Arrive Clean, Leave Clean

Keep your biosecurity plan up to date, review it annually and take the opportunity to look for ways to reduce the risk on your property.

FURTHER LINKS

Farm Biosecurity

<https://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/>

Meat and Livestock Australia

<https://www.mla.com.au/research-and-development/biosecurity/farm-biosecurity/>

On-Farm Biosecurity Plan Template

<https://www.mla.com.au/globalassets/isc/pdf-files/lpa-documents/lpa-records-templates/lpa-06-lpa-on-farm-biosecurity-plan-template-form.pdf>

For further information, please contact the VFF Livestock Group on 1300 882 833 or by email stocksense@vff.org.au

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Victorian Farmers Federation
Farrer House, Level 3, 24 Collins St
Melbourne VIC 3000
Telephone: 1300 882 833
stocksense@vff.org.au
www.vff.org.au/project/stock-sense/