

ON-FARM BIOSECURITY

Undertaking on-farm biosecurity activities can benefit farm profitability. Biosecurity measures such as keeping your livestock and farm free of pests, weeds and diseases can improve the productivity of pasture and reduce losses from disease and pest outbreaks.

What is on-farm biosecurity?

On-farm biosecurity is a set of measures designed to protect a property from the entry and spread of pests, weeds and diseases. It can be any activity, procedure or measure that you take to reduce the likelihood of the introduction and spread of livestock diseases, pests or weeds.

The responsibility for biosecurity is shared between livestock owners, managers and handlers, the people working on your farm and visitors to your farm. Other organisations that play a role in helping to protect the Australian livestock industry from the introduction and spread of deleterious diseases, pests and weeds include Government (state and federal), the scientific community, veterinarians, livestock health and welfare organisations and the local community.

Farm Biosecurity Planning Workshops

The Livestock Biosecurity Network has developed half to full day workshops designed to give producers the tools and resources needed to develop a comprehensive farm biosecurity plan for their property. If you are a producer and are interested in learning more about farm biosecurity please register your interest by calling your local LBN Biosecurity and Extension Manager. Alternatively if you are a member of group or organisation who would be interested in hosting a workshop please call the relevant manager.

Contact us at www.lbn.org.au/regional-managers/

Priority areas for on-farm biosecurity

1. Livestock sales, purchases and movements
2. People, vehicles and equipment
3. Feed and Water
4. Feral animals, pests and weeds
5. Animal health management
6. Carcass, effluent and waste management
7. Staff training
8. Planning, recording and monitoring



Complete this simple checklist to identify areas of your farm that could benefit from improved biosecurity measures.

Priority Area 1 – Livestock movements	Yes	No
1. Do you quarantine/segregate new livestock arriving on your property?		
2. Do you regularly inspect and maintain boundary fences?		
3. Do you routinely request a National Animal Health Declaration when purchasing new stock?		
Priority Area 2 – People, vehicles and equipment	Yes	No
1. Do you keep a register for staff and visitors to your farm?		
2. Do you have people accessing areas of your property without prior consultation?		
3. Do your contractors and suppliers undertake vehicle clean-down procedures if coming from other farms?		
Priority Area 3 – Feed and water	Yes	No
1. Do you only purchase stock feed from suppliers who can provide quality assurance documents such as commodity (or by-product) vendor declarations?		
2. Do you manage water resources in a way to reduce the spread of disease (i.e. prevent stock access to shared water such as creeks and rivers)?		
3. Do you ensure that ruminants don't have access to feeds that contain Restricted Animal Material (RAM)?		
Priority Area 4 – Feral animals, pests and weeds	Yes	No
1. Do you monitor and manage vermin, feral animal, weed and wildlife populations to prevent the spread of weeds, pests and diseases?		
2. Do you coordinate with neighbours and other local community groups to maximise the effectiveness of actions to control weeds, pests and diseases such as baiting for feral animals or weed spraying?		
Priority Area 5 – Animal health management	Yes	No
1. Do you know the health status of your flock/herd and implement practices that will protect them from known diseases already in your region (such as vaccination)?		
2. Do you seek early advice from a veterinarian or government officer in relation to any unusual or unexplained illnesses or deaths in your livestock?		
3. Do you regularly inspect your livestock?		
4. Do you keep a record of animal health treatments including details of the batch number of the products used, their use-by dates, with-holding periods and/or export slaughter intervals?		
Priority Area 6 – Carcase, effluent and waste management	Yes	No
1. Do you dispose of carcasses as soon as possible and in a way that takes into account environmental and public health considerations?		
2. Is your farm rubbish dump fenced off from livestock?		
3. Do you select on-farm waste disposal areas to avoid the potential spread of contaminants by water?		
Priority Area 7 – Staff training	Yes	No
1. Do you ensure that all staff know what to do in the event of a suspected emergency animal disease?		
2. Do you ensure all staff responsible for livestock husbandry know how to identify and handle sick animals?		
3. Do you make sure that contact details for local veterinarians, relevant government officers and the emergency animal disease watch hotline are located in an easily accessible location known to all staff?		
Priority Area 8 – Planning, record keeping and monitoring for improvement	Yes	No
1. Do you have a formal biosecurity plan or manual for your property?		
2. Do you maintain records such as ag-vet chemical inventory and usage records?		
3. Do you review your biosecurity plans and procedures at least annually to ensure continued compliance and effectiveness?		