



# **Biosecurity or Disease Risk Mitigation Strategy for the Australian Cattle Industry**

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## INTRODUCTION

Biosecurity refers to the measures put in place to protect livestock against the likelihood of entry into and spread of disease within cattle herds.

The cattle industry is currently represented on the following committees:

- National Management Group
- Animal Health Australia's Exotic Animal Disease Preparedness Advisory Committee
- Animal Health Australia's FMD Strategy Committee
- Animal Health Australia's Training Steering Committee

These committees have fed information into the Deed, which will apply to Cost Sharing Arrangements for Exotic Disease incursion in the future.

The EAD Response Agreement requires the cattle industry to develop a Biosecurity Plan. The other industries (including the lot feeding industry), which are signatories to the Deed will operate under their own plans.

Major diseases of concern to the cattle industry are:

- Foot and Mouth Disease
- BSE
- Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia
- Lumpy Skin Disease
- Jembrana Disease
- Anthrax
- and others
- Screw Worm Fly
- Rinderpest
- Vesicular Stomatitis
- Brucella Abortus
- Surra

The following is a generic biosecurity plan which should be followed wherever possible by producers on their property. It is accepted that practices may differ from region to region.

This plan covers both pre- and post-outbreak periods. However, in the event of an incursion AUSVETPLAN becomes the operating document for the outbreak.



Advantages to the cattle industry are:

- Reduces the possibility of entry and spread of disease on property.
- Lessens the social and financial impacts of an outbreak.
- Reduces the possibility of consequential loss incurred in a disease outbreak.
- Reduces the producer's liability.



## BIOSECURITY PLAN

### Stock Movements

- Where feasible, only purchase new stock from reputable and biosecurity-conscious suppliers with National Vendor Declarations.
- Make every effort to assess animal health status prior to purchase with animals inspected again upon arrival.
- Curfew period upon receipt to allow stock to empty out in the yards on-farm.
- Do not mix incoming stock with other stock for a nominated surveillance period, say 7 days.
- Ensure fences are adequate to keep animals segregated.
- Ensure stock movement records to and from property are kept.

### Stock – Sick or Dead

- Report cases of unusual sickness or death to a vet or a government officer.
- Where feasible, dispose of carcasses in a segregated area, taking into account environmental and public considerations.
- Take action where practical to address incidences of feral animal activity around dead stock.

### Stockfeed

- Do not feed any meat and bone meal or any other banned products to stock.
- Ensure no contamination of stockfeed by livestock.
- Endeavour to source stockfeed from manufacturers who operate under a quality assurance program that has a biosecurity component.
- When feasible, source stockfeed locally.



### **Vehicle Movements**

- Be aware of potential for property contamination from visiting vehicles.
- Where possible, limit movement of non-property owned vehicles.
- If contamination of vehicles is suspected, ensure vehicles are cleaned.

### **People Movements**

- Be aware of potential for property contamination from visitors, shooters and fishermen.
- Check for rubbish left by the public.
- Where possible, limit unnecessary movement of people.

### **Feral Animals and Wildlife**

- Address feral animal and wildlife exposure to rubbish dumps.
- Limit access of feral animals to dead stock.