



Biosecurity Plan Australian Dairy Industry

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INTRODUCTION

The Government and Livestock Industry Cost Sharing Deed of Agreement in respect to emergency animal disease responses requires the dairy industry to develop a biosecurity plan. This plan is to detail measures to mitigate the risk of an exotic/infectious (emergency) disease entering a dairy farm, spreading within a dairy farm enterprise and being passed to other livestock operations.

The following Dairy Biosecurity Plan outlines elements of best management practice that should be followed wherever possible and practicable, to protect dairy farming operations, and their animal industry neighbours, against the likelihood of an exotic/infectious (emergency) disease entering into and spreading through the dairy cattle population.

By implementing the measures outlined in the biosecurity plan dairy farmers benefit by reducing the likelihood of entry into and spread of disease on their farm and through their industry and, thereby, reduce their liability under the Cost Sharing Arrangements.

It is recognised that many of the practices detailed are currently undertaken, in part or in whole, by dairy farmers as being elements of best management practice. It is also recognised that the management practices employed will vary from farm to farm, dependent on variables such as the size of the operation, the structure and management of the physical facilities and operational management considerations.

In the event of an incursion of an exotic/infectious (emergency) disease, AUSVETPLAN becomes the operating document for the period of the outbreak.

1. REDUCING THE RISK OF INTRODUCING INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Introduced Stock

- Wherever practical, purchase stock from reputable and biosecurity conscious suppliers, and preferably from suppliers who maintain a quality assurance program which includes a biosecurity component.
- Wherever possible, inspect animals prior to purchase to assess their health status.
- Ask for a vendor's declaration as to the property of origin and the health status and treatment history of the stock.
- Assess the health status of incoming animals and ensure their identification can be cross-referenced to the property of origin for trace back purposes.



- Treat incoming animals with any combination of drenches/vaccines, which have been applied to the animals on your property.
- Hold incoming animals for a nominated on farm surveillance period (say 7 days) in isolation from the rest of the animals on your property until satisfied of their health/disease status.
- Ensure fences are adequate to ensure newly arrived animals are kept separate from other animals on the property.

Vehicle/People Movements

- Be aware and minimise the potential for property contamination from visitors and their vehicles, machinery and equipment, including tanker drivers, veterinarians, other producers, inseminators, herd improvement personnel, hay and silage contractors, etc.
- Where possible, limit unnecessary movement of people and non-property owned vehicles over the property.
- Where there is regular movement of vehicles and people onto your property (eg tankers, vet, herd improvement, contractors, etc) ensure, where possible, their vehicles, machinery and equipment are directed to a defined area of the property.
- Limit the movement of non-farm vehicles, machinery and equipment, beyond the defined areas of the property where possible.
- Where movement of vehicles, machinery and equipment is necessary outside the defined areas (eg hay and silage contractors) ensure the equipment has been cleaned to minimise disease spread from another property.
- Ensure there is routine cleaning of visitor's boots and hands.

Stockfeed

- Ensure compliance with State legislation prohibiting the feeding of animal materials to ruminants.
- Where practicable, purchase feed commodities from preferred suppliers who maintain a quality assurance program that includes a biosecurity component.
- Ensure no contamination of stockfeed by livestock, vermin, feral and domestic animals.



Boundaries

- Ensure boundaries are adequate and maintained to prevent movement of livestock on and off your property.

Feral Animals and Wildlife

- Be aware of the potential for introduction and transmission of an exotic/infectious (emergency) disease by feral animals and wildlife and minimise contact with them.
- Be aware of rubbish dumps that may attract feral and wild animals onto property.

2. REDUCE THE RISK OF SPREAD OF DISEASE ON FARM

Regularly Monitor and Investigate Animal Illness/Death

- Ensure that all staff involved in the daily monitoring and handling of animals are aware of the importance of early detection of exotic/infectious (emergency) disease and know what to do if they suspect an animal may be exhibiting symptoms of such a disease.
- During milking undertake routine monitoring of animals for signs of sickness.
- Report cases of unusual sickness or death to your veterinarian or the local government veterinary officer.
- Remove and isolate sick animals from remainder of your animals.

Maintain Good Animal Health Practices

- Establish and maintain an animal health plan including vaccination, worm, fluke and fly control, etc. Include in the plan companion animals such as dogs and horses.
- Ensure a good level of proficiency of operators carrying out the components of this plan.



Dead Animal Management

- Where possible, dispose of carcasses in a segregated area and taking into account environmental and public considerations.
- Cover dead animals placed in a pit as soon as possible to eliminate potential problems with feral animal activity.
- Develop a management plan for disposal of dead animals.

Effluent

- Ensure effective effluent management practices which minimise spread of disease on your property and to neighbouring properties via effluent containment.
- Ensure effluent use on farm does not lead to disease spread.