



Biosecurity Plan

Australian Lot Feeding Industry

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INTRODUCTION

Biosecurity refers to the measures put in place to protect livestock against exposure to endemic and emergency diseases and to limit the spread of these diseases within the livestock population.

As a signatory to the Government and Livestock Industries' Cost Sharing Deed for Emergency Animal Disease Response (known as the EAD Response Agreement), the Australian lot feeding industry has developed a Biosecurity Plan detailing measures to mitigate the risk of an emergency animal disease entering into a feedlot, spreading within the feedlot cattle population and being passed to other livestock operations.

Major emergency diseases of concern to the cattle industry are:

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

The Biosecurity Plan outlines elements of best management practice that should be followed wherever possible and practicable to protect feedlot operations against the likelihood of an emergency disease entering into and spreading through the feedlot cattle population. By implementing the measures outlined in the Biosecurity Plan feedlot operators benefit by reducing the likelihood of entry into and spread of disease in the feedlot and reduce their liability under the EAD Response Agreement.

It is recognised that many of the practices detailed are currently covered, in part or in whole, within the requirements of the National Feedlot Accreditation Scheme (NFAS). Feedlot operators should ensure that the required linkages are made between current elements of the NFAS and the practices set out in the Biosecurity Plan. It is also recognised that the management practices employed will vary from site to site,

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 emergency animal disease, AUSVETPLAN becomes the operating document for the period of the outbreak.

BIOSECURITY PLAN

The following elements should be addressed in the feedlot biosecurity plan:

Stock Purchases

- Where practicable, purchase feeder stock from preferred suppliers who maintain a quality assurance program that includes a biosecurity component.
- Whenever possible, inspect cattle prior to purchase to assess animal health status.
- Ensure that the vendor provides a fully completed National Vendor Declaration (NVD) detailing the property of origin of the consigned cattle.
- Be aware of the presence of best practice guidelines for specific diseases (eg. anthrax) and request appropriate declarations regarding the health status of the consigned cattle.

On Arrival

- Inspect cattle on arrival to assess animal health status.
- Identify all cattle as soon as practicable after arrival, ensuring that their identification can be cross-referenced to the property of origin for trace back purposes.
- Where possible, minimise the mixing of newly arrived cattle with other stock during the introductory period.
- Ensure feedlot internal fences are adequately maintained to minimise accidental mixing of cattle within the feedlot.
- Ensure perimeter fences are adequately maintained to minimise exposure of cattle at the feedlot to stock in adjoining areas.



Stock Monitoring

- Ensure that all staff, involved in the daily monitoring and handling of stock, are aware of the importance of early detection of emergency diseases and know what to do if they suspect an animal may be exhibiting symptoms of such a disease.
- Undertake routine monitoring of cattle in the feedlot for signs of sickness.
- Report cases of unusual sickness or death in the feedlot to the consulting veterinarian or the local government veterinary officer.
- Comply with the requirements for initial investigation of unusual sickness and/or deaths outlined in the incident reporting requirements of the NFAS.

Manure & Effluent Management

- Be aware that manure and effluent pose a potential biosecurity risk.
- Record dates, areas of manure and effluent application and application rates in accordance with the requirements of the National Beef Cattle Feedlot Environmental Code of Practice.
- Record movements of manure and/or compost removed from the feedlot site.
- Wherever possible, do not use the same equipment for handling feed and manure and ensure that manure does not contaminate feed commodities.
- Be aware that for some emergency disease outbreaks there may be a requirement under AUSVETPLAN for the mass de-contamination and disposal of manure and effluent.

Dead Stock Management

- Dispose of dead stock in accordance with documented procedures set out to address the requirements of the National Beef Cattle Feedlot Environmental Code of Practice, taking into account environmental and public considerations.
- Cover dead stock placed in a pit as soon as possible to eliminate potential problems with feral animal activity.
- Develop a management plan for mass disposal of dead stock.



Stockfeed

- Where practicable, purchase feed commodities from preferred suppliers who maintain a quality assurance program that includes a biosecurity component.
- Ensure that the ban on feeding of animal products to cattle, as outlined in the NFAS Standards, is complied with.
- Ensure that livestock do not contaminate feed commodities.
- Ensure feed commodities are fit for purpose.

Vehicle Movements

- Be aware of the potential for introduction and transmission of an emergency disease by visiting vehicles, machinery and equipment.
- Ensure that all vehicles, machinery and equipment entering the feedlot area are directed to specified locations and delivery areas within the feedlot.
- Limit the movement of non-feedlot vehicles, machinery and equipment to areas of the feedlot beyond the specified delivery areas.

People Movements

- Be aware of the potential for introduction and transmission of an emergency disease by visitors.
- Ensure that all visitors entering the feedlot are directed to a designated meeting place away from the main feedlot area, preferably the office, before access is allowed to the main feedlot area.
- Wherever possible, control the access of visitors to the designated feedlot area.
- Maintain a register of visitors and vehicles to the feedlot.

Feral Animals and Wildlife

- Be aware of the potential for introduction and transmission of an emergency disease by feral animals and wildlife.