



Sheep/Goat Industry Biosecurity Plan

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INTRODUCTION

In a broad sense, biosecurity is a set of measures designed to protect a population from transmissible infectious agents at a national, regional and individual farm level. At the farm level it involves the systematic approach of livestock owners on an industry wide basis in providing protection to their flocks and herds against the entry and spread of diseases.

Biosecurity is therefore about managing risk to prevent the introduction of diseases to an enterprise and to prevent the spread of disease between farms or to a disease free area. Farmers practising preventative biosecurity measures will be implementing emergency disease preparedness. The application of preventative biosecurity measures will also limit the impact of endemic diseases so their application makes sense from economic, social and animal welfare perspectives.

The ability of an industry to withstand an outbreak of an emergency disease and the sum total cost of its control will be influenced by each individual farmer's biosecurity plan and its effective operation.

The Government and Livestock Industries' Cost Sharing Deed of Agreement for Emergency Animal Disease Response (known as the EAD Response Agreement) includes an obligation by each industry party, to develop a program that minimises the risk of disease introduction and spread.

Biosecurity is like any other insurance policy and as such it is a prudent investment.

REDUCE THE RISK OF INTRODUCING INFECTIOUS DISEASE BY:

Introduced Stock

- Purchasing stock from reputable and biosecurity-conscious suppliers.
- Making every effort to assess the health status of incoming stock, including closely examining stock yourself for signs of disease. Only purchase stock from flocks with the same or a higher health status than your own flock.
- Insist on a vendor's declaration as to the health status and treatment history of the stock.
- Treat incoming sheep/goats with appropriate parasite drenches and vaccinations and hold stock for a period of no less than 24 hours upon receipt to allow them to empty out in the yards.



- Ensure an adequate records of all stock transactions are kept up to date and maintained.
- Do not mix incoming stock with other stock for a seven day on farm surveillance period.
- It is important to be wary of increased risk associated with diseases such as footrot and Johne's disease and hence an associated requirement for extended on farm surveillance periods.

Vehicle/People movements

- Be aware of potential for property contamination from visitors and their vehicles, including veterinarians, other producers, stock and station agents, shearers, shooters and fishermen.
- Where possible, limit unnecessary movement of people and non-property owned vehicles, encourage use of protective clothing and ensure routine cleaning of visitors' boots and hands.

Stockfeed

- Be aware that tallow is the only animal product which may be legally fed to stock.
- Ensure no contamination of stockfeed by livestock, vermin, feral and domestic animals.
- Source stockfeed from manufacturers who operate under a quality assurance program that has a biosecurity component.

Boundaries

- Ensure boundary and internal fences are adequate and maintained to prevent movement of livestock.

Feral animals and wildlife

- Act upon incidences of feral animal activity around dead stock.

- Coordinate action against ferals with neighbours to maximise effectiveness.
- Be aware of rubbish dumps that may attract feral and wild animals onto property.

REDUCE THE RISK OF SPREAD OF DISEASE ON FARM BY:

Regularly monitoring and investigating animal illness/death

- Report cases of unusual sickness or death to a vet or a government officer for further investigation.
- Remove and isolate sick animals from remainder of flock.
- Where possible, record number of deaths to allow easy reporting of significant increases in mortality.

Maintaining good animal health practices

- Establish and maintain a flock health plan (vaccination, worming, fly control) with your veterinary adviser.
- Ensure a good level of proficiency of operators carrying out the components of this plan.
- Ensure a health plan is also in place for farm dogs and horses and monitor these animals for illness.

Ensuring appropriate disposal of carcasses

- Where possible, dispose of carcasses in a segregated area and taking into account environmental and public considerations.