

Farm Biosecurity Action Planner

The essentials



Copyright

Copyright on this document is owned by Animal Health Australia and Plant Health Australia Limited, except when content has been provided by other contributors, in which case copyright may be owned by another person. With the exception of any material protected by a trade mark and except where otherwise indicated, this document is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Australia licence.



Attribution CC BY

Go to creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0 to view the details the licence conditions, including the full legal code.

Any use of this publication, other than as authorised under this licence or copyright law, is prohibited. All other enquiries should be addressed to info@farmbiosecurity.com.au

AHA and PHA acknowledge all instances where copyright in material vests with another organisation. In such cases, the copyright owner should be contacted regarding reproduction of that material.

ISBN 978-0-9872309-5-9



Disclaimer

While every effort is made to present correct information and advice, AHA and PHA do not guarantee, and accept no legal liability whatsoever arising from or connected to, the accuracy, reliability, currency or completeness of any material contained in this document. AHA and PHA recommend that users exercise their own skill and care with respect to their use of this document and that users carefully evaluate the accuracy, currency, completeness and relevance of the material in the document for their purposes. This document is not a substitute for independent professional advice and users should obtain any appropriate professional advice relevant to their particular circumstances.

Contents

Preparing an on-farm biosecurity plan	2
Farm inputs	3
Farm outputs	5
People	7
Vehicles & equipment	9
Production practices	11
Ferals & weeds	15
Train, plan & record	17

“Take biosecurity seriously.
Pathogens have no respect
for spin.”

Peter and Frances Bender
Salmon and trout farmers, Dover, Tasmania

Farm biosecurity

Simple everyday practices can help protect your property from biosecurity risks. The Farm Biosecurity website has resources for all Australian producers, including:

- crop and livestock specific information
- templates for records and signs
- biosecurity manuals
- checklists
- personal biosecurity toolkits
- information on exotic plant pests
- videos
- links to useful sites
- biosecurity action planner.

Find out more at:
farmbiosecurity.com.au

Secure your farm
...against diseases, pests and weeds

Preparing an on-farm biosecurity plan

The best defence against pests and diseases is to implement sound biosecurity practices on your farm. Quick and simple measures built into everyday practice will help protect your farm and your future.

This farm biosecurity planner will help assess the biosecurity risks on your farm and illustrate steps to address them. Refer to the planner periodically to check on progress and prioritise actions.

A biosecurity action plan will help you identify and prioritise the implementation of biosecurity practices relevant to your property. When devising a plan for your farm, the biosecurity essentials are a good place to start. The essentials are:

- Farm inputs
- Farm outputs
- People, vehicles and equipment
- Production practices
- Ferals, pests & weeds
- Train, plan & record

Completing a self-assessment checklist will also help you to identify biosecurity strengths and weaknesses on your property. It might be helpful to have a map of your property to consider the best places to locate biosecurity zones or 'check points'. This could include signs at entrances to the property, parking areas near the house or site office, where deliveries are picked-up or dropped-off in relation to storage facilities, vehicle wash down areas, existing roads or tracks for movement within the property.

Think about what you can do to minimise the risk of introducing diseases, pest and weed seeds at each of the checkpoints. If you build your plan around daily, monthly or yearly farm routines, then biosecurity should become a habit.

The actual management practices you choose to use will vary from site to site, depending on the size of your property(s), the physical facilities available and the day-to-day management of operations.

If you are already following an accreditation scheme or industry best management practice guidelines they often include a biosecurity component. For example the cotton industry's myBMP.

With each action, set-out the steps needed to achieve the task – this is especially helpful if a group is working on the plan. A responsible person will need to be appointed to oversee the implementation of the actions.

Good practices need not be expensive, but they do need to be easy to follow. They may also take a little of your time, but they are beneficial in the long run.

After you have ranked your priorities, think about which ones you can achieve in the short and long term. Go back to the plan periodically and check progress towards your goals.

As a guide, short-term activities can:

- be planned and implemented within 12 months
- help your business comply with regulatory requirements
- be financially feasible in the short-term
- fit in with the time commitments of your enterprise.

Long-term activities:




- are planned and implemented over more than one year
- need additional financial or personnel resources that are not currently available
- enhance the overall quality of service, aesthetics or administrative procedures.









FARM INPUTS

Almost anything moved onto your property can be a potential source of pests and diseases for livestock and plants. Monitor animals or plant materials that enter the property, as well as sources of water, feed, bedding and fertiliser.




FARM INPUTS	Potential risk	Actions to reduce the risk	Action(s) to take	✓/✗
<p>New plants or animals</p> 	<p>Introducing new plants and animals on to your property can allow unwanted diseases, pests and weeds to enter.</p> <p>Isolating new plants or animals for a quarantine period limits the risk of exposing your entire stock to new pests and diseases and spreading weeds into production areas.</p>	<p>When possible, isolate new plants or animals away from production areas for 21 days before mixing them with your existing stock. This provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) animals a chance to shed weed seeds they may have ingested with feed b) plants and animals to show signs of disease that were not obvious when purchased. <p>Regularly check newly planted areas and stock holding areas for the presence of pests and weeds, and treat before they become established.</p>		
<p>Animal feed</p> 	<p>Animal feed can harbour diseases, pests and weed seeds.</p>	<p>Always request a commodity vendor declaration and ensure any feed you purchase is fit for purpose.</p>		
<p>Banned animal feed</p> 	<p>Feeding restricted animal materials (RAM) to ruminants is illegal in Australia as it is linked to the spread of mad cow disease.</p> <p>It is illegal to feed swill to pigs in Australia. It is a dangerous practice which has led to the spread of diseases such as foot and mouth disease in many countries.</p>	<p>Always read the label of any stock feed you purchase and store feed containing RAM separate from feed for ruminants.</p> <p>Pigs should never be fed any kind of swill, including leftover food from the kitchen table.</p> <p>Always read the label of any purchased stock feed to ensure compliance with these laws.</p>		


FARM INPUTS	Potential risk	Actions to reduce the risk	Action(s) to take	✓/✗
<p>Water sources</p> 	<p>Many pest and disease-causing organisms can survive for a long time in water sources until they find a suitable host.</p>	<p>Ensure water sources are secure from contamination by wild animals and pests. Prevent algal blooms by aerating or treating water that is stored in dams and is high in nutrients.</p>		
<p>Animal bedding material</p> 	<p>Animal bedding material can harbour diseases, pests and weed seeds.</p>	<p>Ensure bedding material is fit for purpose, refreshed regularly and is stored in a clean, dry and vermin free environment.</p>		
<p>Hives</p> 	<p>Bees from wild and managed hives pollinate many fruit and vegetable crops. Bees can act as vectors for the spread of pests and diseases.</p>	<p>Make sure you know where any bee hives have been prior to your property. Check the health of the bees regularly, and advise your hive provider of any intended use of any potentially harmful chemicals.</p>		
<p>Fertiliser</p> 	<p>Organic fertilisers such as manure and compost can be a source of weeds if not composted thoroughly.</p>	<p>Ensure that animal manure and green waste is aged and thoroughly composted to destroy weed seeds and disease causing organisms present in the material. Maintain a record of the source of organic fertilisers, the application dates and where applied. Check that the supplier is following the industry Purchasing Code of Practice or equivalent quality controls.</p>		



FARM OUTPUTS

Responsibility for biosecurity doesn't end when plant products or animals leave the farm gate. The measures in place on your property support biosecurity in your region.

FARM OUTPUTS	Potential risk	Actions to reduce the risk	Action(s) to take	✓/✗
<p>Moving plants and animals off the property</p> 	<p>Crops and livestock can spread diseases, pests and weeds from your property and put the status or productivity of the entire region or industry at risk.</p>	<p>Ensure plant products and animals are fit to travel, your records are up to date and that the transport vehicle is clean.</p> <p>Provide copies of supporting paperwork such as National Vendor Declarations, Animal Health Statements or Interstate Certification Assurances.</p> <p>Update the National Livestock Identification System database if moving cattle, sheep, goats or pigs.</p>		
<p>Shows and sales</p> 	<p>Events where animals are brought together are an opportunity for disease to spread:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) directly from animal to animal b) via contact with contaminated soil, food and water. <p>Stock can be exposed to disease by mixing with other plants or animals or coming into contact with contaminated pens, vehicles, people or equipment.</p>	<p>Only take healthy plants, produce or livestock to shows, sales and markets.</p> <p>Do not share equipment with others and have a separate supply of feed and water for livestock.</p> <p>When possible, isolate returning stock as you would for any new stock entering the property.</p>		
<p>Product transport</p> 	<p>Dirty bins used for harvesting can transfer insect pests and diseases to subsequently harvested crops.</p> <p>Soil and plant material adhering to harvested crops can carry insect pests and disease organisms.</p>	<p>Ensure no soil, waste plant material or pests are left on or in bins or transport containers by removing organic matter and disinfecting the bins.</p>		

FARM OUTPUTS	Potential risk	Actions to reduce the risk	Action(s) to take	✓/✗
<p>Product packing</p> 	<p>Soil and plant material adhering to harvested crops can carry insect pests and disease organisms.</p>	<p>Remove loose soil and plant material from harvested crops.</p> <p>Minimise post-harvest contamination.</p> <p>Only potable water should be used for washing fruit and vegetable produce as part of packaging operations.</p> <p>A 'spray diary' record should accompany each consignment of vegetables, fruits and nuts.</p>		

Biosecurity toolkit

The Farm Biosecurity website has a range of material to help you to implement biosecurity on-farm, including animal health declarations and statements, crop and livestock specific biosecurity manuals, and templates for records.

Go to farmbiosecurity.com.au/toolkit

“Biosecurity has always been at the forefront of the production processes in the nursery.”




Peter Young




Production nursery owner, Woombye, Queensland



PEOPLE

If it can move, it can carry diseases, pests and weeds. For this reason, people, vehicles and equipment pose a high biosecurity risk and should be managed accordingly.

PEOPLE	Potential risk	Actions to reduce the risk	Action(s) to take	✓/✗
Property access 	Multiple, unsecured entry points to your property make it difficult to control visitor access and manage high risk visitors such as those who visit multiple properties each day.	Limit the number of access points to your property (lock unused gates). Use signs to direct visitors to designated parking or reception areas. Access to production areas (fields, paddocks or sheds) should be limited to a restricted range of personnel only.		
Signage 	Never assume that people know what to do when they arrive at your property. Without signage, visitors and staff may be unaware of the biosecurity procedures enforced on your property.	Erect signs to instruct visitors. Use clear instructions and provide relevant contact details.		
Visitor risk assessment 	Visitors can unknowingly carry diseases, pests and weeds on their clothes and personal items. The risk is greater if they've been in contact with other livestock or crops, or have recently been interstate or overseas.	Conduct a risk assessment before you allow a visitor onto your property. If required, provide cleaning equipment or a change of clothing or footwear to reduce the risk. If you cannot reduce the risk, refuse entry to high risk visitors.		

PEOPLE	Potential risk	Actions to reduce the risk	Action(s) to take	✓/✗
<p>Visitors to the property</p> 	<p>If you don't know where visitors have come from or what they have been doing, it will be difficult to trace back or trace forward in the event of an incursion or disease outbreak.</p>	<p>Direct all visitors to a designated parking area away from livestock or crops and ask them to report to management and sign a visitor register.</p>		
<p>Visitor contact with plants and animals</p> 	<p>Visitors can unknowingly carry diseases, pests and weeds on their clothes and personal items.</p>	<p>Limit access to and contact with crops and livestock, and eliminate any unnecessary contact altogether.</p>		
<p>General hygiene</p> 	<p>Pests, disease causing organisms and weed seeds can be present on hands, clothing, footwear and personal items of people.</p>	<p>Provide hand washing facilities, foot baths or alternative clothing and footwear for visitors to use while on-farm.</p>		

“The management of people and product onto the property have high priority.”

Ron Creagh
Grain and sheep producer, Nungarin, Western Australia

Subscribe to Farm Biosecurity News





Sign up to receive a monthly e-newsletter from Farm Biosecurity.





Go to farmbiosecurity.com.au/subscribe



VEHICLES & EQUIPMENT

Diseases, pests and weeds can enter a farm and be spread by equipment and vehicles, either directly or in plant material, soil or manure. It is important to maintain equipment hygiene and ensure all vehicles that visit your property are clean and well maintained.



VEHICLES & EQUIPMENT	Explanation of risk	Actions to reduce the risk	Action(s) to take	✓/✗
Equipment hygiene 	<p>Tools and equipment can carry diseases, pests and weeds seeds.</p> <p>The risk for disease spread is higher when equipment is borrowed, lent or bought second-hand from other properties.</p>	<p>Clean and disinfect tools and equipment before and after use on crops or livestock.</p> <p>Clean and disinfect equipment between rows of plants (eg secateurs) or between different batches, mobs or herds of animals.</p> <p>Clean and disinfect second-hand, borrowed or lent equipment before and after use.</p>		
Dedicated equipment 	<p>Practically, it may be best to have dedicated tools, clothing and footwear for use on crops or livestock affected by pests or diseases. This equipment should never be used in clean areas of your property.</p>	<p>Have dedicated tools, clothing and footwear available for use in production areas or on animals and plants affected by pests or disease.</p> <p>Always work with sick plants or animals last (work from clean to dirty).</p>		
Storage areas 	<p>Some pests and diseases can live in the natural environment for months or years.</p>	<p>Clean and disinfect equipment storage areas regularly.</p>		
Vehicle entry points 	<p>Multiple, unsecured entry points to your property make it difficult to control access and manage high risk visitors such as utility providers who visit multiple properties every day.</p>	<p>Encourage visitors to enter the property via one or two routes only. Use signs to inform visitors about property access points.</p>		




VEHICLES & EQUIPMENT	Explanation of risk	Actions to reduce the risk	Action(s) to take	✓/x
<p>Vehicle movement and parking</p> 	<p>All parts of a vehicle can carry disease causing organisms, pests and weeds seeds.</p> <p>Without restricting parking and vehicle movements within the property, it is difficult to control and monitor the spread of diseases, pests and weeds.</p>	<p>Minimise the number of vehicles you allow onto the property and restrict them to designated visitor parking areas.</p> <p>Monitor areas next to parking facilities for signs of diseases, pests and weeds.</p> <p>Not all vehicles need to access production areas. It may be easier to have vehicles that are for use only on-farm. If possible, use your own farm vehicles to transport visitors around the property.</p>		
<p>Vehicle hygiene and washes</p> 	<p>All parts of a vehicle can carry disease causing organisms, pests and weeds seeds.</p>	<p>Provide a wash area for vehicles that need to enter production areas, or before moving crops or livestock.</p> <p>If possible, use a high pressure wash down (or blow down) facility located well away from crops or livestock for cleaning vehicles and equipment.</p> <p>For maximum protection, it is recommended that you also disinfect after washing.</p>		
<p>Run-off from wash areas</p> 	<p>Run-off from vehicle washing can contain diseases, pests and weed seeds.</p>	<p>Collect run-off from vehicle wash areas in a sump, or direct it away from production areas.</p> <p>Monitor areas next to cleaning facilities for signs of pests and diseases, and treat weeds before setting seed or becoming established.</p>		
<p>Roads and tracks</p>  <p><small>Image: DAFWA</small></p>	<p>There is an increased risk of introducing diseases, pests and weeds when vehicles travel off or divert from established roads and tracks.</p>	<p>Ask visitors to stay on established roads or tracks.</p> <p>Check areas next to roads and tracks for signs of diseases, pests and weeds, and treat before becoming established.</p>		








PRODUCTION PRACTICES

Good on-farm hygiene reduces the risk of spreading pests and diseases. Implement simple hygiene practices for feed and water, product packaging, storage facilities, livestock husbandry, waste materials and plant propagation activities.

PRODUCTION PRACTICES	Explanation of risk	Action(s) to reduce the risk	Action(s) to take	✓/✗
Water management 	<p>The management of water supplies is important for the maintenance of healthy plants and animals. If water sources become contaminated they can spread pests throughout production areas.</p>	<p>Prevent algal blooms by aerating or treating water that is high in nutrients and is stored in dams.</p> <p>Where possible, use drip irrigation for recycled water to avoid aerosol formation.</p> <p>Make sure livestock cannot drink from waste water storage dams.</p> <p>Prevent young and vulnerable livestock from grazing pastures irrigated with recycled effluent during the 'withholding period' after each irrigation.</p>		
Plant waste 	<p>Leaf material or fallen fruit, abandoned orchards or vineyards can attract or harbour pests and diseases. It is important to break the life cycle of insect pests.</p>	<p>Collect all plant waste that shows signs of pests or disease and dispose of it by deep burial or burning, well away from water sources, nursery and production areas.</p> <p>For cuttings or healthy waste plant material, use a dedicated waste management facility or compost it thoroughly.</p>		

PRODUCTION PRACTICES	Explanation of risk	Action(s) to reduce the risk	Action(s) to take	✓/✗
<p>Animal manure and waste</p> 	<p>Effluent, waste and dead animals can harbour disease causing organisms.</p> <p>Disease agents in effluent can contaminate pastures, stockfeed and water sources.</p>	<p>Dispose of animal carcasses and waste as soon as practical in a segregated area that cannot be accessed by livestock, or wild and feral animals.</p> <p>Select disposal areas to avoid the potential spread of contaminants by water, wind or animals.</p> <p>Manage effluent dispersal to minimise disease spread through the contamination of pastures, stockfeed and water. Maintain grazing intervals (21 days) between applications of these materials to paddocks and grazing of livestock.</p> <p>Always ensure you are adhering to government and industry requirements for carcase, effluent and waste management.</p>		
<p>Feed storage</p> 	<p>Poor feed storage encourages pests and diseases which may contaminate feed or reduce its usefulness.</p> <p>Old feed can harbour disease organisms and pests that may be harmful to your livestock.</p> <p>Wet and mouldy feed is a potential source of disease or poisoning.</p>	<p>Keep feed in a clean, dry storage area.</p> <p>Regularly inspect feed supplies for insects, pests, mould and damage and ensure they remain secured and fit for purpose.</p>		
<p>Feed and water troughs</p> 	<p>Contaminants can accumulate in animal feed and water troughs if they are not cleaned regularly.</p> <p>Old feed or water left in the trough can contaminate new feed or water.</p>	<p>Clean feed and water troughs regularly to prevent the build-up of contaminants.</p> <p>Implement a cleaning roster to ensure they are always clean.</p> <p>Provide cover for animal feed and water where possible, and keep the troughs high enough so they cannot be contaminated by animal faeces.</p>		




PRODUCTION PRACTICES	Explanation of risk	Action(s) to reduce the risk	Action(s) to take	✓/✗
<p>Monitoring and surveillance</p> 	<p>Early detection of pests and diseases gives you the best chance of preventing pests or diseases from establishing on your property and ongoing additional expenses for their control. Early detection also increases the chances of eradicating a new pest or disease.</p> <p>Recording the absence of pests or diseases is just as important as recording what you do see.</p>	<p>Regularly monitor your crops and livestock.</p> <p>Become familiar with pests and diseases commonly found in your region so you will know if you see something different.</p> <p>Sentinel plants or livestock can provide early warning of emerging pest problems.</p> <p>Display posters showing common pests and diseases to help staff with identification.</p>		
<p>Monitoring frequency</p> 	<p>The optimum frequency of monitoring depends on the type of crop or livestock being managed, and the production intensity.</p> <p>Additional monitoring may be required during disease outbreaks, seasonal presence of insects, or growing periods. This can minimise the chance of diseases, pests and weeds entering and spreading on your property.</p>	<p>Increase the frequency of inspections of crops and livestock during periods of higher risk, such as known disease outbreaks, increased insect and wildlife activity or growing periods for weeds.</p>		
<p>Silo storage of grain</p>  <p><small>Image: DAFWA</small></p>	<p>Spilled grain around grain storage areas can attract insect pests and vermin.</p> <p>Silos need to be gas tight to ensure fumigation treatments are effective and to prevent insects becoming resistant to treatments such as phosphine.</p> <p>There is a high risk that the first grain to pass through harvesters at the start of the season contains storage pests.</p>	<p>Maintain good hygiene around your storage areas.</p> <p>Clean and pressure test sealable silos and repair any faulty rubber seals before filling with grain.</p> <p>Separate the first grain to pass through harvesters at the start of each season.</p>		
<p>Fencing</p> 	<p>Damaged fences can allow livestock to stray. It could also allow your neighbour's livestock to mix with your stock.</p>	<p>Ensure fences prevent livestock from straying onto/off your property.</p> <p>Use double fencing if possible to prevent livestock from making direct contact with neighbours' animals.</p> <p>Fenced-off vegetation planted as wind breaks or corridors can also act as a buffer zone between properties.</p>		




PRODUCTION PRACTICES	Explanation of risk	Action(s) to reduce the risk	Action(s) to take	✓/✗
<p>Feed spills & disposal</p> 	<p>Spilt feed can be spread around the property by wind or other means (eg birds).</p>	<p>Dispose of spilt, old or contaminated feed safely and promptly, keeping it away from livestock and pests.</p>		
<p>Product storage</p> 	<p>Stored products, feed and equipment can attract or harbour pests and diseases. Soil and plant material adhering to harvested crops can carry insect pests and disease organisms.</p>	<p>Clean equipment before storage. Remove loose soil and plant material from harvested crops before storage. Products, feed and equipment should be stored securely to avoid attracting pests. Minimise post-harvest contamination.</p>		
<p>Agvet chemicals</p> 	<p>Chemical residues on plants and animal products can result in rejection from international and domestic markets, and can pose a risk to human health. The misuse of chemicals can also lead to the development of resistance by pests, potentially creating new biosecurity risks and management challenges.</p>	<p>Be sure to follow the instructions on the label and observe withholding periods after treatments. Where necessary, seek training in appropriate use of agvet chemicals.</p>		
<p>Insect resistance to chemicals</p>  <p><small>Image: GRDC</small></p>	<p>Inappropriate use of chemicals can cause insects to become resistant, making control difficult. This can cause more widespread and ongoing biosecurity problems.</p>	<p>If you suspect insects in your stored grain are resistant to chemicals, contact your nearest Department of Primary Industries or agronomist to have the insects tested.</p>		
<p>Vaccination</p> 	<p>Some organisms that cause disease in animals can infect humans.</p>	<p>Ensure all personnel working on-farm are vaccinated for identified risk diseases (eg Q Fever and tetanus). Where necessary, vaccinate livestock against zoonotic (animal to human) diseases (eg Hendra and leptospirosis).</p>		



FERALS & WEEDS

Feral animals, plant pests and weeds are a widespread nuisance but can also cause harm to your business, so they need to be actively controlled.

FERALS & WEEDS	Explanation of risk	Action(s) to reduce the risk	Action(s) to take	✓/x
Wild and feral animals 	Wild or feral animals and vermin may carry disease causing organisms.	Develop a wild and feral animal control program to protect livestock and cropping land. Ensure farm buildings are in good repair and that feed and water sources are free from contamination. Work with neighbours and other producers in your local area to implement a coordinated approach to feral animal control.		
Boundary fences 	Wild or feral animals may carry disease causing organisms.	Ensure boundary fences are secure.		
Property cleanliness 	Spilled food, rubbish dumps and carcasses can attract pests or wild animals that carry diseases onto the property.	Remove or contain anything that is likely to attract vermin, insect pests or wild animals.		

FERALS & WEEDS	Explanation of risk	Action(s) to reduce the risk	Action(s) to take	✓/x
<p>Weeds</p> 	<p>Weed species are significant biosecurity problems in their own right, as well as being alternative hosts of some agricultural and horticultural pests. Some weeds can also make livestock sick.</p> <p>Grain export markets have zero tolerance for weed seeds, and may cause shipments to be rejected.</p>	<p>Establish a weed management plan for your property, including plans for eradicating, containing or managing current weeds on your property, and preventing the introduction of new species.</p> <p>Control weeds along dirt tracks and roads, in areas used to isolate new stock, and next to vehicle parking or cleaning areas.</p> <p>Look for outbreaks of weeds, especially after drought, fire and flood.</p>		
<p>Volunteer plants</p>  <p><small>Image: Cotton Australia</small></p>	<p>Volunteer plants that have escaped from production areas and created a 'green bridge' can harbour pests or diseases between growing seasons.</p>	<p>Control volunteers or green bridges including, where necessary, plants external to the paddock (eg roadways, and head ditches).</p>		
<p>Property and land destruction</p>  <p><small>Image: DEPI</small></p>	<p>Property and land destruction through excavation activities, fire, flood or storms provide an opportunity for pests and weeds to become established, and for feral animals to enter your property.</p>	<p>Control weeds in fields and paddocks after flooding, drought or fire.</p> <p>Inspect any areas that have been recently landscaped (eg new roads or dams) or affected by land destruction (eg fences) and treat weeds before they have a chance to set seed and become established.</p>		



“Biosecurity measures start at the farm gate with washing vehicles, footwear and anything else that has come into contact with soil.”




Shannon Paton
Banana grower, Nerada, Queensland



TRAIN, PLAN & RECORD

Ensure that staff are well trained and that you have the ability to trace where animals or plants have come from and where they went. Keep accurate records of purchases, sales and movement of all products entering or leaving the property.

TRAIN, PLAN & RECORD	Explanation	Action(s) to reduce the risk	Action(s) to take	✓/x
Biosecurity planning 	An on-farm biosecurity plan will help you prioritise the implementation of biosecurity practices relevant to your property.	Devise a plan for your property, prioritise actions, and update the implementation table as you achieve goals.		
Record keeping 	A property owner or manager should to be able to 'trace back' and 'trace forward' if there is a disease, pest or weed incursion on their property.	Keep records of purchases and sales, health certificates and declarations, and pest and disease monitoring activities.		
Vendor declarations and statements 	Animals and plants entering your property can carry pests, disease causing organisms or weed seeds. Simple visual inspection of plants or animals may not be enough to know they are healthy.	Always request history and supporting paperwork, such as National Vendor Declaration, commodity vendor declaration, Animal Health Statement, seed or nursery stock certification.		

TRAIN, PLAN & RECORD	Explanation	Action(s) to reduce the risk	Action(s) to take	✓/x
<p>Staff training</p> 	<p>Anyone working on the property (including friends and family) may not know how easily diseases, pests and weeds can spread and how to prevent this from happening.</p>	<p>Inform staff of the biosecurity standards required on site. Provide biosecurity training or information sessions for staff. Have posters to remind staff of the importance of farm biosecurity</p>		
<p>Monitoring and surveillance</p> 	<p>Active monitoring and surveillance can provide early warning of potential or emerging problems with pests and diseases. Monitoring data can be used to support continued access to domestic and international markets. Recording the absence of pests or diseases is just as important as recording what you do see.</p>	<p>Keep a record of all crop or livestock monitoring, even if you don't see anything.</p>		
<p>Suspect diseases, pests and weeds</p> 	<p>You have a responsibility to report unusual diseases, pests or weeds to an agronomist, vet, state DPI, the Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline or the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline.</p>	<p>Know who to call if you suspect you have an emergency animal disease or plant pest. Keep details of state DPis, vets, agronomists, Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline or Exotic Plant Pest Hotline at hand. Develop an Emergency Animal Disease Action Plan. (go to farmbiosecurity.com.au/about/emergency-animal-diseases/)</p>		

“Everyone should take responsibility for their own properties to guard themselves against diseases.”

Richard Halliday
Sheep producer, Bordertown, South Australia

Need help?

If you need help with your plan or have any questions about on-farm biosecurity, you can contact the Grains Biosecurity Officers or the Livestock Biosecurity Network.

Livestock Biosecurity Network

For the contact details of the Livestock Biosecurity Network, go to lbn.org.au

Grains Farm Biosecurity Program

planthealthaustralia.com.au/gfbp

New South Wales	Rachel Taylor-Hukins	0409 945 069	rachel.taylor-hukins@dpi.nsw.gov.au
Queensland	Kym McIntyre	0429 727 690	kym.mcintyre@daf.qld.gov.au
South Australia	Judy Bellati	0412 218 228	judy.bellati@sa.gov.au
Victoria	Jim Moran	0418 377 930	jim.moran@ecodev.vic.gov.au
Western Australia	Jeff Russell	0447 851 801	jeff.russell@dpird.wa.gov.au

Other industries have also appointed biosecurity specialists to help producers to implement biosecurity measures on-farm. Contact your peak industry body for details.

