

Biosecurity and emergency animal disease preparedness for the camel industry



Like any traditional livestock industry, the camel farming sector faces very similar risks of disease and pest incursions, many of which have the capability of impacting the entire industry. And, just like traditional farming sectors, the best way to avoid and combat pests and diseases is by having a robust farm biosecurity plan in place to secure your farm and your future.

WHAT IS FARM BIOSECURITY?

Farm biosecurity is a set of measures designed to protect a property from the entry and spread of pests, diseases and weeds. Farm biosecurity is your responsibility, and that of every person visiting or working on your property.

Producers play a key role in protecting Australian plant and livestock industries from pests and diseases by implementing sound biosecurity measures on-farm.

If a new pest or disease becomes established on your farm, it will affect your business through increased costs (for monitoring, production practices, additional chemical use and labour), reduced productivity (in yield and/or quality) or loss of markets. Early detection and immediate reporting of an exotic pest or disease increases the chance of effective and efficient eradication.

For more information about implementing a biosecurity plan for your property visit www.farmbiosecurity.com.au

WHAT IS AN EMERGENCY ANIMAL DISEASE?

An outbreak of a serious emergency animal disease (EAD) can be disastrous for producers, causing significant personal stress and anguish as well as financial hardship. Livestock industries can lose sales opportunities both domestically and internationally in the wake of a damaged reputation for our produce, and the broader Australian economy could lose billions in trade and employment.

An EAD is likely to have a significant effect on livestock, potentially resulting in livestock deaths, production loss, and in some cases, impacts on human health and the environment.

Australian camel producers, especially those that co-graze their camels with cattle, should make themselves aware of potential disease outbreaks that could affect cattle and camels. EADs like foot-and-mouth disease or notifiable diseases like brucellosis or Johne's disease are examples of diseases that affect both livestock species. As a general rule, camel producers should also familiarize themselves with potential diseases in their area.

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WHAT DO I DO IF I SUSPECT AN EMERGENCY DISEASE IN MY CAMELS?

Early intervention is vital in an EAD outbreak! If you suspect a pest or disease outbreak or have seen something unusual and you're not sure whether it's an exotic pest or disease, report it! Don't worry how insignificant it may be. Small signs may be an early indication that something's wrong.

Your suspicions of a serious livestock disease must be reported to your local government or private vet or a stock inspector, or you can call the free Emergency Disease Watch Hotline – 1800 675 888. The hotline operates to assist the early reporting of EADs.

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**Don't let
pests and
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become the
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Call the emergency animal disease watch hotline if you suspect anything unusual in your camels.

**EMERGENCY ANIMAL
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1800 675 888**



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