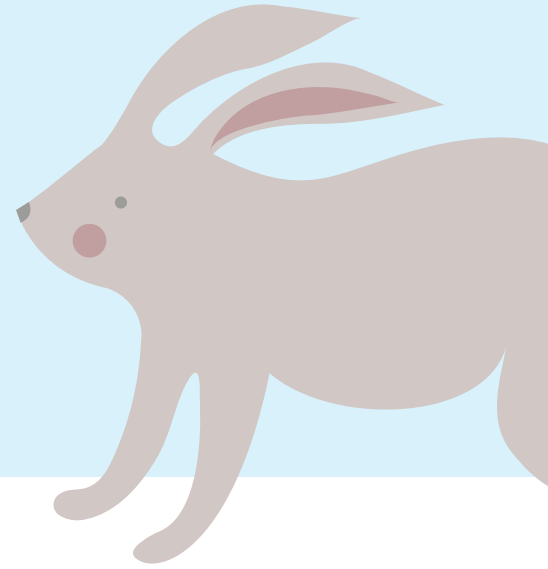


# Biosecurity and emergency animal disease preparedness for the rabbit farming industry



Like any traditional livestock industry, the rabbit 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](http://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.

Diseases affecting the rabbit production industry such as Tularemia, or even calicivirus, are examples of EADs. However, the definition also includes unusual, severe outbreaks of established diseases that may cause sudden trade disruptions, such as the 1997 anthrax outbreaks in Victorian dairy cattle. It also includes new diseases where it is not immediately apparent what the disease is, such as the occurrence of Hendra virus in Queensland horses in 1994.

***Farm biosecurity is your responsibility, and that of every person visiting or working on your property.***



## WHAT DO I DO IF I SUSPECT AN EMERGENCY DISEASE IN MY RABBITS?

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.

*Early intervention is vital  
in an EAD outbreak!*

**Don't stew over  
the threat of an  
emergency disease  
or pest incursion,  
implement a robust  
biosecurity plan  
for your business.**



Call the emergency animal disease watch hotline if you suspect anything unusual in your rabbits.

**EMERGENCY ANIMAL  
DISEASE WATCH HOTLINE  
1800 675 888**



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