

On-Farm Biosecurity Planning

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Why is On-farm Biosecurity planning important?

- Regardless of the size of the enterprise, landholders play a vital role in minimising biosecurity risks and protecting property and animals from pests, diseases and contaminants.
- Responsibility shared between livestock owners, managers, handlers, farm workers and visitors.



Risks of Introduction:

- Visitors (neighbours, agents, salespeople, advisors, shooters, fishers, vets) can unintentionally bring pest weeds and diseases onto property
- Shared vehicles and other farm machinery
- Contaminated feed, seed, fertiliser, water
- On-site rubbish and carcase disposal
- Neighbouring properties
- New animals (stock and ferals)



A BIOSECURITY PLAN OUTLINES ACTIONS TO MITIGATE THESE RISKS



Major components of a plan:

- **Livestock:**
 - Purchases, agistment
 - Movements
 - Transport
- **People, equipment & vehicles:**
 - Restricted movement
 - Entry and exit points
 - Minimised equipment sharing
 - Washdown / decontamination / inspection
- **Feed and water:**
 - Adhere to Ruminant Feed Ban (RFB)
 - Seeds / feed sources from reputable supplier
 - Assess for contamination (weeds, pests)
 - Manage effluent
 - Maintain quality and quantity of water





Major components of a plan:

- Invasive plants and animals:
 - Impacts:
 - Competition for resources (food and water, nutrients)
 - Damage to infrastructure
 - Fences
 - Contamination of water sources
 - Pastures
 - Reduction in productivity
 - Predation
 - Disease risks (parasites, pathogens)
 - Poisonous plants / noxious weeds
 - Incorporate into Biosecurity Plan:
 - Coordinated control programs – neighbours
 - Dogs, pigs, insects, rodents
 - Identify and document incursions – weed distribution map
 - Reduce risk of weed introduction
 - Safe use of chemicals (WHPs etc)





Major components of a plan:

- Livestock management, health and welfare:
 - Animal treatment records
 - Early detection and reporting of unusual death / sickness
- Waste management:
 - Carcass or waste product disposal plan
 - Scraps (ruminant feed ban)
 - Chemical disposal
- Staff training
- Record keeping
- Planning:
 - Emergency disease outbreak
 - Weeds





Resources:

- Biosecurity Queensland: www.daf.qld.gov.au/biosecurity
 - Invasive Plants and Animals
 - Animal Biosecurity and Welfare
 - Plant Biosecurity and Product Integrity
- Livestock Biosecurity Network: www.lbn.org.au
- Animal Health Australia: www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au
- WoNS: www.weeds.org.au/WoNS
- Local Councils
- Local NRM groups (Landcare, Catchment groups)



BIOSECURITY ACT:

- Improve Qld's biosecurity preparedness and response capabilities
- Risk-based, less prescriptive approach
- The Act deals with pests, diseases and contaminants
- The **general biosecurity obligation**:
 - Those whose activities pose a biosecurity risk will have greater legal responsibility for managing them
 - Must take all reasonable steps to ensure they don't spread a pest, disease or contaminant
- Biosecurity zones to be introduced by Regulation

