

CASE STUDY

Biosecurity is essential in the prevention of pest and disease threats to the agricultural industry. These measures include the response to these threats and the ongoing recovery in instance of infestation. While prevention is not always

achieved, mitigation strategies are required to ensure pests and diseases that are not active within Australia are not readily introduced.

Australia holds an enviable position within the global agricultural industry due to a strong animal health status. This is in part due to location, being an island nation, Australia does not share immediate borders with any other country. Therefore, the entry of pest and diseases are via return travel and imports. While there are significant measures being undertaken to ensure that pest and disease entry into the country is restricted, on farm practices assist in the restriction of farm-to-farm movements of pests and diseases already introduced. An example of undesirable pests are ticks. Queensland has a distinct tick line, in which acts as a buffer between zones that are considered tick free from those where ticks are endemic. This line aligns along the 500mm rainfall belt in Central and Northern Queensland, using environmental conditions as the boundary, with the Western side of the line being tick free. In Southern Queensland, this line is made up of physical structures, due to the unreliability of environmental boundaries. This boundary is to assist in the minimising of tick infestations. When moving cattle between zones, all cattle must be free of ticks. For further information on where the tick line lies, please visit <https://arcq.is/1z14500>



NRIP WQ Grazing 2021-2022

TIPS TO IMPROVE BIOSECURITY ON YOUR FARM

- LIMIT ENTRY POINTS
- WASHDOWN POINTS FOR VEHICLES TO REDUCE THE SPREAD OF PLANT PESTS.
- QUARANTINE PURCHASED LIVESTOCK
- LIMIT CONTACT WITH OUTSIDE LIVESTOCK
- PURCHASE CROP AND PASTURE SEED FROM A REPUTABLE RETAILER
- DISINFECT EQUIPMENT BETWEEN EACH INDIVIDUAL ANIMAL
- ENSURE ALL STAFF ARE FAMILIAR WITH SYMPTOMS THAT ARE ASSOCIATED WITH DISEASE.



Biosecurity within the agricultural industry is the responsibility of everyone, with each individual responsible for recognising and minimising risks. When entering properties, there are measures that need to be undertaken to ensure that the spread of disease is restricted. There are a number of methods that can be adopted in limiting the risk of new pests and diseases from entering your property:

- Limit entry points. To limit movements, one access point to the property assists in knowing who is entering your property is ideal. In instances where there is more than one entry point, lock the gate so that access needs to be requested.
- All vehicles are free from pest, weed seeds and plant material. Provide a dedicated wash down point for vehicles to be washed down, preventing the spread of undesirable weeds. Should a visitor refuse to wash down their vehicle or are unable to demonstrate that their vehicle is weed free, access to the property to be refused.
- Where applicable, do not allow visitors vehicles access to the property other than the entry point. Prevention is better than cure and removing the uncertainty of whether a vehicle is carrying weed seed prevents the occurrence of possible infestation.
- Quarantine purchased livestock in a designated paddock for a period of at least one week. This allows the animal to 'empty' out and any adhering seed to drop from the animal's hair and hooves. This dedicated paddock can then be treated should any weed seed germinate, as opposed to the whole property being exposed.
- Limit contact with outside livestock where applicable. While it is difficult to prevent neighbours' stock from crawling under fences, maintaining boundary fences lessens the chances of neighbouring cattle dropping in for a visit.
- Purchase crop and pasture seed from a retailer with a good reputation. The purchase of seed and unknown plant materials increases the risk of contamination.
- Quarantine sick livestock from the main herd. Ensure disinfection occurs after contact to prevent the risk of infecting the entire herd.
- Disinfect equipment between each individual animal while undertaking procedures such as prep testing, spaying, dehorning, and castration.
- Ensure all staff are familiar with symptoms that are associated with diseases and in the identification of pests and that they are familiar with the procedure in how to report them.

WHAT IS NRIP

THE QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT'S NATURAL RESOURCE INVESTMENT PROGRAM COMMENCED IN 2018 AND HAS PROVIDED FUNDING TO NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT REGION BODIES TO SUSTAIN NATURAL RESOURCES AND IMPROVE REEF WATER QUALITY ACROSS THE STATE. REEF CATCHMENTS WAS SUCCESSFUL IN THEIR BID TO RECEIVE FUNDING TO UNDERTAKE TWO REGIONAL PROJECTS.

► IMPROVING THE RELATIVE ECOLOGICAL CONDITION OF FRESHWATER STREAMS AND WETLANDS IN THE MACKAY WHITSUNDAY REGION

► ADDRESSING PRIORITY SUB-CATCHMENT WATER QUALITY TARGETS THROUGH GRAZING MANAGEMENT INTERVENTIONS

THE FUNDING REFLECTS THE ONGOING COMMITMENT OF BOTH THE QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT AND REGIONAL NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT BODIES TO ENSURE THE STATE'S NATURAL LAND AND WATER RESOURCES ARE SUSTAINABLY MANAGED.

For further information please visit <https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/onfarmbiosecurity>

https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0004/379138/qld-biosecurity-manual.pdf