

Property owners guide to biosecurity

BIOSECURITY TASMANIA FACT SHEET

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HYG-002

Pests, diseases and weeds can be carried by anything that moves onto your property, posing a risk to your biosecurity.

Are you taking adequate steps to protect your property? Quick and simple measures built into everyday practices will help protect your property and your future.

VISITORS

**PLEASE RESPECT
FARM BIOSECURITY**

Please contact the manager before entering.

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Do not enter property without prior approval.
Keep to roadways and laneways.



Control access to your property.



Provide wash down points for equipment.

Tips for good biosecurity

Good biosecurity will save you time, money and heartache, and it doesn't have to be difficult or expensive. Good hygiene practice is the key to effective property biosecurity and the maintenance of your pest, weed and disease free status.

Good hygiene practice must apply to all vehicles, machinery, footwear, clothing, equipment and tools coming onto your property.

Have a *keep it clean* policy for visitors

Limit the chance of any visitor leaving you with a new problem. Provide a designated parking area, so that vehicles entering are confined at one location.

Display prominent biosecurity signage and give visitors clear instructions about where to go upon leaving their vehicle including a contact phone number or radio channel. Include boot scrapers, brushes and a foot bath at site access points so that *keeping it clean* is easy.

Additionally, advise visitors of any existing biosecurity risks on your property that they need to be aware of.

Ensure contractors check and clean vehicles, machinery, gear, clothing and footwear before entering

Advise all staff, contractors, suppliers and visitors to your property that you have a *keep it clean* policy and to enter the property they must adhere to this policy.

For vehicles and machinery that must enter further onto the property provide an inspection and wash down facility or area which includes a sump to collect waste matter. It will promote good hygiene practice and help contain the spread of a new pest.

Ensure the weed, pest and disease free status of all animals and new materials, such as soil, gravel, seed and plants

- Seek evidence or certification of clean status of materials and produce from the vendor
- Ensure animals are certified free of disease
- Make close inspection of livestock to ensure hooves, fleeces, hair and coats are not contaminated with weed seeds
- Quarantine animals before delivery or quarantine on the property to ensure any weeds in the gut are contained to a known location

Have a biosecurity plan

Make a plan identifying the things you need to protect from new pests, diseases and weeds, any likely risks to those things and the steps you need to initiate to avoid the risks and thus any new and potentially costly problems.

For example, is anyone coming onto your property likely to be visiting another property before they come to you? If so, what do you know about their properties pest, disease and weed status? Does this pose a risk to you and how will you mitigate that risk?

Plant Health Australia and Animal Health Australia have produced some helpful biosecurity checklists and manuals. These are available for a range of rural enterprises to help you assess risks and plan best practice biosecurity for your property.

Planning resources can be found online at:

www.farmbiosecurity.com.au

Keep a register

Introduce a register for visitors, suppliers and contractors, and record details of materials you have received. Knowing movements onto and off the property may be vital for effective tracing if a pest, disease or weed is introduced.

Be vigilant

Undertake regular inspection of livestock and monitor crops, and pastures for new weeds, diseases and insect pests. For those with bush blocks, keep alert for new plants that might be weeds among native vegetation as weeds can be a significant threat to flora and fauna.

Early detection and immediate reporting of a pest, disease or weed increases the chance of effective and efficient eradication.

Report any unusual pests, diseases or weeds you find:

Invasive Species Enquiries **03 6165 3777**

Animal Disease Watch Hotline **1800 675 888**

Exotic Plant Pest Hotline **1800 084 881**

What you risk from poor biosecurity

If a new pest, disease or weed becomes established on your property, it can cost you time, money and heartache, including:

- increased costs (for monitoring, production practices, additional chemical use and labour);
- reduced productivity (in yield and/or quality); or,
- loss of certification and/or market access.

Further information

Biosecurity Tasmania has a range of experts who can provide advice about good biosecurity. Refer to the contact details below.

The Farm Biosecurity website also has useful information about biosecurity hygiene, creating biosecurity plans and identifying biosecurity risks:

www.farmbiosecurity.com.au

