

Come clean, go clean!



Guidelines for farm biosecurity

Farm biosecurity is a set of measures designed to protect properties from the entry and spread of pests and diseases. It includes trying to prevent new pests and diseases from arriving, and helping to control outbreaks if they occur.

It relies on assessing the risks of bringing pests and diseases onto your farm and how to prevent that from occurring.

Farm biosecurity is everybody's responsibility, but starts with you at the farm gate. It does not have to be complex or expensive to implement.

There are a range of **simple everyday practices** you can put in place to protect your farm and minimise the spread of pests and disease.



To protect your industry and livelihood,
help prevent the spread of unwanted
pests and diseases;

Come clean, go clean!



Farm hygiene

- Pests and diseases can spread easily through soil, water and plant material in contact with people, their footwear, clothes, vehicles, machinery and equipment.
- Ensuring people, vehicles and machinery in contact with plants/crops come clean is vital in reducing the risk of introducing unwanted pests and diseases.

Remember:

- farm biosecurity is about keeping other properties clean too – ensure people, vehicles and machinery in contact with plants or **go clean**
- a footbath with decontaminate such as Agriquat, Farmcleanse® or Clorhexidine is an easy way to ensure footwear is kept clean
- visitors should use on-farm equipment, tools and boots if provided. Visitors using own equipment, should make sure it is clean before entering and exiting. 70% alcohol in a spray bottle can be used to disinfect equipment.
- crop waste can harbour pests and diseases and should be collected and disposed of away from the growing area, including crop residues and prunings, as well as packing shed waste.
- Liberal washing with soap and water can remove most infectious agents from hands and skin. Alcohol based hand-sanitisers or chlorhexidine based hand washes can also be used.

Signs and zones

- Whilst signs are not a physical barrier they should act as a clear guide.
- Never assume that all people know what to do when they arrive at your property.
- Use clear instructions and provide relevant contact details.
- Biosecurity signage should be placed at key access points, and used to direct visitors to designated parking or reception areas, and restrict access to growing areas.
- Create a map of your farm identifying the different zones. 'Outside' or 'dirty' versus 'clean', free access versus authorised personnel only.
- The growing area is in a 'clean' zone quarantined from the 'outside' zone of the farm.
- Ideally place vehicle and footbath wash bays between the 'clean' and 'outside' zones.

Training, records and registers

- Train and inform farm staff and visitors on the biosecurity measures applied on the farm to ensure pests and diseases are not unknowingly brought onto the farm.
- Training and visitor access to growing areas should be recorded.
- Recording pest and disease monitoring activities can provide useful information for tracing back or tracing forward possible pest and disease incursions on the farm.
- A register of the source of plants, with details such as variety, supplier, specific plant details (i.e. seed batch numbers) and planting dates, will help to trace back or trace forward important details if required.

Surveillance, monitoring and control

- Pest and disease surveillance involves monitoring, recording and managing pests and diseases.
- Focus on high priority areas; such as growing areas, point of access, storage areas or wash down areas. Remember some weeds can also be hosts to certain pests and diseases, so these should be controlled.
- Regular monitoring and checks of your crops can provide early warning of suspect and known pests and diseases.
- Immediate reporting of a pest or disease incursion increases efficient control.
- Do not touch, move or transport a suspected or known infected plant material. You should contact the Department of Primary Industry and Resources (DPIR) Plant Biosecurity team who will provide protocols for handling and transport of samples. Incorrect handling could spread the pest further or make samples unfit for diagnosis.