

Biosecurity best practice checklist

To ensure that your property has the best protection against the introduction and spread of new pests, use the following self-assessment questions to identify the strengths and weaknesses of your farm activities.

This process forms the basis of a farm biosecurity action plan which will allow you to systematically address any risk areas that you have identified.

While changing everyday practices takes effort in the short term, with time they become second nature. Changes are easier and cheaper than dealing with the introduction of a new pest.

You can get further information and help in improving the biosecurity practices on your property from the Grains Biosecurity Officer in your state, and at farmbiosecurity.com.au.

Date of biosecurity check: _____

RECOMMENDED PRACTICES	ASSESSMENT	ACTION REQUIRED
Crop monitoring and reporting unusual pests		
Crops and pastures regularly inspected for both endemic and exotic pests.		
Pest surveillance activities and results recorded, even when nothing is found.		
Alternative hosts are treated or removed to prevent them from harbouring pests and diseases between growing seasons.		
You, your staff and family are familiar with the high priority pest threats for the grains industry.		
You, your staff and family know how to report suspect pests.		
Pest management plans developed for the farm.		
Managing people movement		
Biosecurity sign located on gates and fences, with house or mobile phone number and/or UHF channel shown.		
All visitors sign a visitor register on arrival.		
Visitors assessed and managed according to risk posed. On-site biosecurity inductions delivered where appropriate.		
Visitor's clothing, footwear and tools are free of soil or plant matter before entering or leaving the farm.		
All people recently returned from overseas have clean footwear and clothes before entering the farm.		
Hygiene supplies available for use where appropriate (e.g. hand sanitiser, gloves, masks, disposable over boots and overalls).		
Equipment for cleaning and disinfecting footwear provided. Alternatively, footwear for use on-farm available.		
Farm personnel trained in biosecurity and farm hygiene practices (e.g. pest management, personal, equipment and vehicle hygiene practices, risks arising from livestock and feed).		
Contractor entry to the farm conditional on being made aware of biosecurity measures.		
Contractors are signatories to an industry recommended hygiene protocol or program and maintain records and log books.		
Contractors/visitors made aware if property has a declared or notifiable pest.		

RECOMMENDED PRACTICES	ASSESSMENT	ACTION REQUIRED
Managing vehicles and equipment		
Designated parking area for non-farm vehicles and contractor equipment available and clearly signed.		
Area checked regularly for new pests and weeds.		
On-site farm vehicles used to transport visitors and equipment around the farm.		
Vehicle access to production areas kept to a minimum.		
Machinery entering the production area inspected for insects, soil and plant material prior to entry.		
Borrowed and second-hand machinery and equipment is cleaned of all plant material and soil before use.		
Cleaning and wash-down facilities, preferably on a concrete pad, provided for machinery and equipment. Facilities clearly signposted with instructions.		
High pressure water and air available for use to remove plant material and soil from equipment and machinery.		
Sump installed in wash-down facility to contain soil, pests and weed seeds, and to stop run-off entering waterways.		
Wash-down facility and surrounds inspected on a quarterly basis (i.e. clean the sump and check it for pests and weeds). Records kept and updated.		
Machinery cleaned before being moved off property.		
Any movement restrictions abided by.		
Product management		
Seed is certified to be free from pests and weed seeds. Records of seed and its source maintained.		
Seed is checked for pests.		
Grain loaded and unloaded on compacted surfaces away from production areas.		
All grain storage and handling equipment thoroughly cleaned out at least three weeks before harvest.		
Silos pressure tested to ensure they are gas-tight.		
Aeration units for cooling and/or drying stored grain fitted to storages.		
Areas around grain silos kept free of spilt grain, weeds and general rubbish.		
Stored grain monitored for pests regularly.		
Fumigations carried out only when pests are present, in sealable (gas-tight) storages. Chemicals used according to label instructions.		
Warning signs displayed on grains silos during fumigation and ventilation.		

RECOMMENDED PRACTICES	ASSESSMENT	ACTION REQUIRED
Managing risks posed by livestock and feed		
Ensure all grain and hay purchased for stock feed is free from unwanted weeds, soil and pests. Checks done for known outbreaks of pests in the area of origin.		
Purchased grain and hay fed to animals in the same area which is monitored regularly for new weeds and pests.		
Newly purchased livestock isolated in a holding paddock for 10-14 days.		
Holding paddock regularly checked for new pests and weeds.		
All livestock movements onto and within the farm recorded in a stock diary.		
Boundary fences and gates maintained to prevent animals from straying on or off the property.		
Stray or potentially sick animals captured and isolated as soon as possible.		