



Biosecurity Management Plan for broadacre industries

Property Name:	Property Address:
Owner or Manager:	Contact number:
Review date: Review every 12 months.	
Biosecurity Management Plan completed by: (Name, signature and date)	Emergency Plant Pest Hotline 1800 084 881



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This is a Biosecurity Management Plan in accordance with Section 94G(4) of the Queensland Biosecurity Regulation 2016 and clause 44B of the New South Wales Biosecurity Regulation 2017. The purpose of this Biosecurity Management Plan is to state the measures to prevent, control or stop the spread of biosecurity matter into, at, or from the management areas defined in the plan; as described in relevant Australian state and territory biosecurity legislation. Various obligations apply to areas where a Biosecurity Management Plan is in place. For details of these of these obligations, refer to the relevant legislation in your jurisdiction. People entering areas where a Biosecurity Management Plan applies need to be aware of their obligations under the plan and must comply with the measures outlined.



Why develop a farm biosecurity management plan?

The best defence against pests, weeds and diseases is implementing sound biosecurity practices that are built into day-to-day activities on farm.

Developing a biosecurity management plan will allow you recognise and minimise the biosecurity risks to your farm by assessing your farm's strengths and weaknesses, and identifying areas for potential improvement.

This document aims to help you:

- Identify and assess the biosecurity risks to your farm and business,
- Outline biosecurity practices currently implemented, and
- Identify biosecurity practices to be undertaken in the short and long-term to reduce biosecurity risks

If you build your plan around daily, monthly or yearly farm routines, biosecurity will become a habit rather than an additional task.

The suggestions provided in this document attempt to cover a wide range of farming scenarios, and can be adapted to suit your particular circumstances.

It is unlikely that all risks and actions will apply to your farm, and in some cases alternative practices may be better suited to your farm and business.

The important thing is that you are aware of your biosecurity risks and take all reasonable steps to mitigate those risks.

The biosecurity practices you choose to implement will depend on:

- Size and location of the property(s),
- Physical facilities available, and
- Day-to-day management of operations.

A property map is a useful tool when considering the best places for biosecurity zoning and identifying key features to factor into your planned biosecurity practices, including property entrances, existing roads and tracks, parking and wash down areas, and places with known disease or weed issues.

Biosecurity legislation

Legislation under the New South Wales *Biosecurity Act 2015* and Queensland *Biosecurity Act 2014* supports biosecurity management as a shared responsibility. If you are a grower in either state you have a responsibility to protect your industry and community from biosecurity risks you may come across in your day-to-day activities.

New South Wales – the General Biosecurity Duty

In the New South Wales *Biosecurity Act 2015*, the General Biosecurity Duty means that as far as is reasonably practicable, biosecurity risks encountered are prevented, eliminated or minimised. For further information on your General Biosecurity Duty, please refer to the New South Wales Department of Primary Industries website

www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/managing-biosecurity/the-general-biosecurity-duty.

Queensland – the General Biosecurity Obligation

In the Queensland *Biosecurity Act 2014*, the General Biosecurity Obligation means that everyone is responsible for managing biosecurity risks under their control. For further information on your General Biosecurity Obligation, please refer to the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries website

www.daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/biosecurity/policy-legislation-regulation/biosecurity-act-2014/general-biosecurity-obligation.

The introduction of this legislation in both states makes it more important than ever to be aware of the biosecurity risks relevant to you and your property and do your best to mitigate these risks.



Developing your farm biosecurity management plan

Risk assessment

Conduct an assessment of the biosecurity risks to your farm, by considering what could happen (consequence) and the chances of it occurring (likelihood). Risk assessment is an important element of biosecurity management. This practical approach will ensure you apply your resources to achieve the best outcome without wasting time and money.

In the document, rate an activity's biosecurity risk as low, medium, high or not applicable depending on the likelihood of the activity spreading pests, weeds and diseases into or from the farm and the impact this would have on production.

Biosecurity practices

Complete the document to reflect your current biosecurity practices. Use the recommended practices as examples or develop your own personalised actions that best suit your farm and business.

If you are already addressing a biosecurity risk using the recommended practice select 'Yes'. If you are addressing a biosecurity risk using a practice other than the recommended practice, select 'Other' and specify the practice being implemented in the Comment Box.

If a biosecurity risk is relevant to your farm but currently no biosecurity practice is in place, select 'No' and specify any actions to be completed in the Comment Box. Identify and prioritise practices to implement over the short and long-term to reduce biosecurity risks to your farm, using the Action Plan on pages 14 and 15.

Review your farm biosecurity management plan annually.

A risk assessment determines the level of risk an activity is likely to pose to your farm and business. The matrix is also helpful when property zoning with respect to biosecurity.

		LIKELIHOOD		
		UNLIKELY Could happen sometimes; low probability but cannot be ruled out completely	LIKELY Could happen most times.	VERY LIKELY Could happen every time.
CONSEQUENCE	MINOR Risk may have little impact	Low Risk	Medium Risk	Medium Risk
	MODERATE Risk will have some impact	Low Risk	Medium Risk	High Risk
	MAJOR Risk will have a significant impact	Medium Risk	High Risk	High Risk

Examples: visitors that come on farm to visit the house for a coffee, park at the house area and do not enter production areas pose a low level of risk so require no or minimal biosecurity mitigation practices.

However, a visitor who has been in the production areas of multiple properties, such as consultant, researcher, contractor, hunter or utility provider, or in known disease, pest or weed areas, poses a higher risk. A higher-risk visitor may require more significant biosecurity practices such as washing down vehicles prior to their visit or borrowing a farm vehicle while on farm to reduce biosecurity risks.



People, vehicles and equipment

Potential risk	Risk assessment LOW/MED/HIGH or NOT APPLICABLE	Recommended practices	Yes	Other	No	Comments/ Action(s) to take:
Property access Multiple, unsecured entry points to your property make it difficult to control and limit visitor and vehicle access.		Where reasonable and practical, limit the number of entry points to your property.				
		Encourage visitors to enter the property via specific entry points.				
Visitor communication – signage Without signage, visitors may be unaware of the biosecurity procedures enforced on your property. Signs let people know that a plan is in place and what to do when they arrive.		Use farm biosecurity signs displayed at property entrances to communicate biosecurity procedures and/or direct visitors to designated parking or reception areas. Sign(s) has clear instructions and provides relevant contact details including phone numbers and/or UHF channels. <i>Note: New South Wales producers or Queensland registered biosecurity entities (RBEs) who wish to utilise the provisions of the respective biosecurity legislation need to have farm biosecurity signs displayed at property access points notifying visitors that the property has a biosecurity management plan and an up-to-date biosecurity management plan is in place that aligns to legislation. Please contact a biosecurity officer from your State Department of Agriculture for further assistance in ensuring your biosecurity management plan and signage fulfils the criteria.</i>				
Visitors Visitors can unknowingly carry diseases, pests and weeds on their clothes, vehicles and equipment.		Ensure farm visitors who are entering production areas, such as researchers, contractors, consultants, utility workers (e.g. power, water) and hunters, are aware of your biosecurity expectations and required practices through sharing your farm biosecurity management plan and/or entry-exit procedures.				
		Maintain a register of visitors accessing production areas (e.g. consultants, researchers).				
Visitor risk assessment International visitors or visitors from outside your geographical region are generally a higher risk than 'locals'.		Undertake risk assessment for high-risk visitors ahead of their visit or before allowing them on farm.				
		If required, provide cleaning equipment or ensure appropriate risk mitigation occurs (change of clothing or footwear) before allowing access to production areas.				

Potential risk	Risk assessment LOW/MED/HIGH or NOT APPLICABLE	Recommended practices	Yes	Other	No	Comments/ Action(s) to take:
Vehicle movement and parking Without restricting parking and vehicle movements within the property, it is difficult to control and monitor the spread of pests, weeds and diseases.		Minimise the number of vehicles you allow onto the property.				
		Designate a parking area for visitors' vehicles.				
		Monitor areas around the designated parking area for signs of diseases, pests and weeds.				
		Provide a farm vehicle for visitors to use while on the property.				
		If providing a farm vehicle is not practical, request that visitors drive on designated roads within the property and encourage 'Come Clean. Go Clean' practices.				
		Have a supply of farm maps on hand to provide to visitors and farm workers. Farm maps should outline established roads or tracks and key features and areas including wash down facilities, parking areas, office/shed and any disease or weed problems areas for visitors to avoid.				



Biosecurity Management Plan

Potential risk	Risk assessment LOW/MED/HIGH or NOT APPLICABLE	Recommended practices	Yes	Other	No	Comments/ Action(s) to take:
<p>Vehicle, machinery and equipment hygiene Vehicles, machinery and equipment can carry pests, weeds and diseases.</p> <p>The risk for disease spread is higher when vehicles and machinery are muddy, as well as from machinery that is borrowed/contracted and arriving from other properties.</p> <p>Shipping containers and machinery that is being moved or coming from interstate also poses a higher risk (due to the threat of transporting hitchhiker pest species and the differences in endemic pests, weeds and diseases across regions).</p>		Provide a wash down area/facility for vehicles, machinery and equipment.				
		Vehicles, machinery, equipment and shipping containers arriving on farm must be mud and trash-free. 'Come Clean Go Clean' practices apply to farm personnel and visitors.				
		Staff should be aware that hitchhiker pest species, such as brown marmorated stink bug and khapra beetle, can also be transported on non-agricultural and even household type goods.				
		For maximum protection, use an agricultural disinfectant as part of clean down procedures for vehicles, equipment and machinery.				
		Ensure your biosecurity requirements are communicated to all contractors who are bringing machinery onto the farm ahead of time.				
		If moving machinery interstate, ensure all Australian state and territory biosecurity legislation is met and machinery is mud and trash-free.				



Biosecurity Management Plan

Potential risk	Risk assessment LOW/MED/HIGH or NOT APPLICABLE	Recommended practices	Yes	Other	No	Comments/ Action(s) to take:
Run-off from wash down areas Run-off from vehicle and machinery washing can contain weed seeds, pests and diseases.		Collect run-off from wash down areas /facilities in a sump, or direct away from production areas.				
		Monitor areas around wash down areas/facilities for signs of pests, weeds or diseases and treat weeds before they set seed and become established.				
General hygiene Pests, pathogens and weed seeds can be present on footwear and equipment of visitors.		Provide clean down equipment or facilities for visitors to clean their boots and equipment, and ensure visitors know the location of these facilities on the property.				
Field days or walks Holding field days or field walks introduces risks with people potentially carrying pests, disease or weeds from their own farms on their vehicles, clothing or footwear.		If you are holding a public event: Provide designated parking away from production areas. Ensure attendees sign a field day attendance register. Put in place general hygiene measures such as footbaths. Ensure attendees are reminded ahead of time to practice Come Clean Go Clean in communication material related to the field day or walk.				
						
Other people, vehicles and equipment risks...						



Cropping and production practices

Farm inputs

Potential risk	Risk assessment LOW/MED/HIGH or NOT APPLICABLE	Recommended practices	Yes	Other	No	Comments/ Action(s) to take:
New plants or seeds Introducing new plants or seeds on to your property can allow unwanted diseases, pests and weeds to enter.		Only purchase seed from verifiable sources.				
		When purchased seeds are of a higher biosecurity risk, maintain a record of purchase and from which source.				
		Follow license agreements for GM crops e.g. Bollgard® cotton				
Beehives		Be aware of the location of any beehives on your property or nearby (BeeConnected).				
		Advise your hive provider or any nearby hive owners of any intended use of any potentially harmful chemicals.				
Fertiliser Organic fertilisers such as manure and compost can be a source of weeds if not composted thoroughly.		Ensure that animal manure and green waste is thoroughly composted to destroy weed seeds and pathogens present in the material.				
		Maintain a record of the source of organic fertilisers, the application dates and where applied on the property.				

Farm outputs

Potential risk	Risk assessment LOW/MED/HIGH or NOT APPLICABLE	Recommended practices	Yes	Other	No	Comments/ Action(s) to take:
Moving seed and produce off the property		Ensure both plant products/seed being moved and transport vehicle is clean.				
		In relevant regions, follow any recommendations from industry groups i.e. Cotton Industry Biosecurity Group, regarding the movement of cotton modules and grain.				



Production practices

Potential risk	Risk assessment LOW/MED/HIGH or NOT APPLICABLE	Recommended practices	Yes	Other	No	Comments/ Action(s) to take:
<p>Monitoring and surveillance Early detection of pests and diseases gives you the best chance of preventing them from establishing on your property and avoiding ongoing additional expenses for their control. Early detection also increases the chances of eradicating an exotic pest or disease.</p> 		Be familiar with pests, weeds and diseases commonly found in your region.				
		Regularly monitor crops.				
		Keep records of crop surveillance and monitoring, even when nothing is found.				
		Know who to call if you suspect you have an exotic plant pest or something unknown - keep contact details of consultant, State Department of Agriculture and Exotic Plant Pest Hotline (1800 084 881) at hand.				
		Display posters showing industry exotic pests and diseases to raise awareness amongst staff.				
		Where applicable, document relevant disease, weed and pest management strategies and review best practice management updates as they arise.				
<p>Disease management Muddy machinery moving from diseased fields to non-diseased fields can increase incidence of disease on farm.</p>		If practical, leave diseased fields last or clean down thoroughly before using in non-diseased fields.				
<p>Volunteer and ratoon plants Volunteer and ratoon plants that have escaped from production areas create a 'green bridge' that can harbour pests or diseases between growing seasons.</p>		Control volunteer and ratoon plants both within and external to the paddock (e.g. roadways and head ditches).				

Biosecurity Management Plan

Potential risk	Risk assessment LOW/MED/HIGH or NOT APPLICABLE	Recommended practices	Yes	Other	No	Comments/ Action(s) to take:
Water management Contaminated water sources can spread pests throughout production areas.		Monitor or prevent, where possible, algal blooms by aerating or treating water that is high in nutrients and is stored in dams.				
		Closely monitor areas that have been inundated by flood water for the presence of new pests, weeds and diseases.				
Product storage Spilled grain around grain storage areas can attract insect pests and vermin. Silos need to be gas tight to ensure fumigation treatments are effective. There is a high risk that the first grain to pass through harvesters at the start of the season contains storage pests.		Maintain good hygiene around your storage areas.				
		Products, feed and equipment should be stored securely to avoid attracting pests.				
		Clean and pressure test sealable silos and repair any faulty rubber seals before filling with grain.				
		Separate the first grain to pass through harvesters at the start of each season.				
		Grain should be monitored regularly and potential treatment plans put into place to ensure quality is maintained.				
		Minimise post-harvest contamination.				
Fencing Damaged fences can allow livestock to stray. It could also allow your neighbour's livestock to mix with your stock or spread pests, weeds and diseases on to your property.		Regularly inspect and maintain existing fences to prevent livestock from straying onto/off your property.				
<i>Other cropping and production practices risks...</i>						



Training, planning and recording

Potential risk	Risk assessment LOW/MED/HIGH or NOT APPLICABLE	Recommended practices	Yes	Other	No	Comments/ Action(s) to take:
Record keeping A property owner or manager should be able to 'trace back' and 'trace forward' if there is a disease, pest or weed incursion on their property.		Keep records of all on-off farm movement including plant materials sources, visitors, and pest and disease monitoring activities.				
Staff training People working on the property may not be aware of how easily diseases, pests and weeds can spread and how to prevent this from happening.		Biosecurity training, including expectations of staff, is a component in employee inductions.				
		When available and appropriate, staff undertake training on biosecurity, pest and disease management.				
		Keep a record of biosecurity training activities or meetings (informal and formal) undertaken and participated in by farm personnel i.e. managers, farm staff and consultant.				
		Display posters to remind staff of the importance of farm biosecurity and key industry exotic pests.				
Other training, planning and recording risks...						



Feral animals

Potential risk	Risk assessment LOW/MED/HIGH or NOT APPLICABLE	Recommended practices	Yes	Other	No	Comments/ Action(s) to take:
Feral animals Feral animals and vermin may carry disease-causing organisms.		Document feral animal control plans as required.				
		Engage with neighbours, other producers in your local area and control groups to maximise the effectiveness of control by implementing a coordinated approach.				
Property cleanliness Spilled food, rubbish dumps and carcasses can attract pests or wild animals that carry diseases onto the property.		Remove or contain anything that is likely to attract vermin, insect pests or wild animals.				
<i>Other feral animal risks...</i>						



Property maps and zoning

A property map is an important part of a farm biosecurity plan. A property map can provide a visual representation of features on the property (e.g. entry points, house, sheds and wash-down facilities). It can also be used to highlight any production areas affected by disease or weed infestations that may require additional management. Your property map can be given to farm staff, contractors or visitors who may need access to the property (e.g. utility workers and hunters) to ensure they can adhere to your biosecurity requirements and expectations.

Zoning

A property map may also be helpful should you consider ‘zoning’ your property. **Zoning is the division of the property into separate areas based on the level of biosecurity that is needed to minimise the possibility of pests, diseases and weeds entering and spreading.** A three-zone system helps to create separation and recognise the different management required between various areas on the property e.g. visitors accessing the house would have a different risk level to a person accessing fields and production areas.

Zone	What is it?	Examples	Recommended biosecurity action
Cool Zone	Areas where visitors may access but have minimum to no contact with crops or livestock.	The Cool Zone may be the house or the office on the property. People can come and go as they are parked in designated areas and are not near production areas. For example, visitors to the house or office.	Little action required.
Warm Zone	Area where a number of people and vehicles may need to access in order to drop off/pick up materials.	The Warm Zone is the ‘roadway’ for essential vehicles that need to come onto farm. This zone may include roads through the farm to sheds and silos. For example, trucks picking up crop products, fertiliser or fuel deliveries.	May not be feasible to limit access. Ensure the area is kept clean and preferably well gravelled. Monitor regularly for weeds and pests.
Hot Zone	This is the area where crop production is located and vehicles, machinery and equipment operate.	The Hot Zone includes fields where vehicles, machinery and equipment may operate. Vehicles, machinery or tools should not enter this area without appropriate measures. For example, machinery should not be removed out the Hot Zone and taken to another farm and vice versa without appropriate measures being used. For large enterprises or to manage a particular disease or pest issue, it may also be useful to have separate Hot Zones within a property.	Restrict access to this zone. People or vehicles who have a need to enter apply Come Clean Go Clean practices.
ACCESS FOR UTILITY AND SERVICE PROVIDERS			
Plan access for utility providers and their contractors , and provide suggested routes for the workers to take to gain access. Consider where the poles/utility fixtures are located and associated risks.			

Action Plan for implementing biosecurity practices

Short-term goals

Practice to be implemented	Risk factor or priority	Actions to take:	Person responsible	Due date
Place biosecurity signs at property entrance	High	Organise to collect two signs from Grains Farm Biosecurity Officer or CottonInfo Regional Extension Officer. Place signs at Long Road and Short Road farm entrances.	Jane Doe	19/08/2021



Long-term goals

Practice to be implemented	Risk factor or priority	Actions to take:	Person responsible	Due date
Set up a wash down pad on farm	High	Determine best spot for wash-down on the property. Organise quotes for concrete and high-pressure hose equipment.	John Smith	10/11/2021

More information

Sharna Holman,
Development Extension Officer, Queensland Department of Agriculture
and Fisheries and
CottonInfo Biosecurity Technical Lead

Further resources

Farm Biosecurity website: www.farmbiosecurity.com.au
Plant Health Australia website: www.planthealthaustralia.com.au
CottonInfo: www.cottoninfo.com.au
Exotic Plant Pest Hotline
 For reporting suspect exotic plant pests – 1800 084 881

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Disclaimer: The information contained in this document is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (March 2021). However, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and for any changes to biosecurity legislation with the appropriate state or territory or the user's independent adviser.

All images belong and sourced from Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and CottonInfo unless otherwise stated.

This biosecurity management plan was adapted from the 'Farm Biosecurity Action Planner' developed by Plant Health Australia and Animal Health Australia under creative commons attribution.

