

Is your field research a biosecurity risk?



**GRAINS FARM
BIOSECURITY
PROGRAM**

Research sites and field work are integral to agricultural research, but researchers need to be aware of the associated farm biosecurity risks.

TOP TIPS FOR REDUCING FIELD RESEARCH BIOSECURITY RISKS

1. Ensure your contractual agreement with the property owner is detailed.

- Outline the practices that will be employed to safeguard the property.
- Check the owner's requirements:
 - > Do they have a wash down facility you can use?
 - > Are there any declared pests, quarantined areas or other issues on the property that may require extra vigilance?
 - > Is there a farm plan with designated roadways to the site?
 - > Are there requirements for using the farm's vehicles when visiting the site?
 - > Is there a designated parking area?
 - > Are there procedures for notifying the grower as you enter and leave the site?



2. Employ a 'keep it clean' policy when conducting on-farm research.

Apply this to vehicles, machinery, footwear, clothing, equipment and tools.

- Locate on-farm wash down facilities and if unavailable, ensure a car/truck wash is used prior to travelling to other sites.
- Ensure policies and state quarantine regulations are followed to deal with analysis and disposal of plant matter or soil (particularly if moving material between states).

3. Ensure compliance by the whole team.

- Involve staff in determining biosecurity measures to be implemented to assist them in understanding the risks and improve compliance.
- Review, evaluate and update existing biosecurity practices/protocols for field work to ensure they remain relevant to the current trial.

4. Consider the location of your field site.

Try to locate it near an access road to reduce the need for on-site vehicle movement. The location is even more important if field demonstrations are to be held.

5. Consider the risks of experimental material.

If trial material has not been treated (e.g. no fungicide on seed to test for disease resistance) it is important to advise the property owner of the risks of introduction of a new pest.

6. Carry a vehicle biosecurity kit at all times.

Contents include provisions for keeping hands, equipment and vehicles free of pests. Incorporate a foot bath at site access points.

PEST

Refers to all insect, mite, snail, nematode, pathogens (diseases) and weeds that can damage plants or plant products.

What do you risk by not considering farm biosecurity?



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What do you risk by not considering farm biosecurity?

- Introducing a new pest to an area with associated control and management issues (possibly long term).
- Negative feedback for your organisation.
- Failure to take on responsibility and 'duty of care'.
- Reluctance of farmers to participate in future trials.

For assistance creating a biosecurity plan, identifying biosecurity risks or sourcing equipment or material to mitigate these risks, contact your state's Grains Biosecurity Officer. Go to grainsbiosecurity.com.au for more information.

**If you see anything unusual,
call the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline**

**EXOTIC PLANT PEST HOTLINE
1800 084 881**

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BASIC VEHICLE BIOSECURITY KIT

- stiff brushes and a scraper for cleaning boots and equipment
- dustpan and brush
- rubber boots, boot covers and/or a spare pair of boots
- disposable gloves
- plastic tray and/or a bucket (for use as a footbath and to clean equipment)
- detergent or disinfectant (sufficient amount for cleaning equipment and boots)
- hand sanitiser or hand wash
- strong plastic bags for disposable items/dirty clothing/shoes
- 5 L water.

OTHER ITEMS FOR A MORE ADVANCED BIOSECURITY KIT

- small hand sprayer with methylated spirits or ethanol (70%)
- flagging tape and pegs to mark location of a suspect new pest
- plastic sample bags and permanent markers
- sample jars and paper bags.

