

Biosecurity guidelines for contractors



GRAINS FARM
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Biosecurity guidelines for contractors

Contractors and their staff have a responsibility to prevent the spread of unwanted pests, such as insects, weeds and diseases when they work on farming properties. Pests can be spread between farming regions or even paddocks, through the movement of machinery, vehicles and staff.

The following simple guidelines will assist contractors to minimise biosecurity risks when working on farms.

BEFORE YOU ARRIVE

Contact the owner or farm manager

Inform the farmer when you intend to enter the property and ask if there are any specific protocols or precautions in place, such as designated parking or wash down areas.

Make sure your clothes, vehicle and equipment are clean

Soil and plant material can carry weed seeds and pests when left on tyres, radiator grills, wheel arches, floor mats and work boots. Clean vehicles and equipment before you arrive on the property.

Carry a biosecurity kit in your vehicle

Each tool kit should contain items to clean clothing, vehicles and equipment and any personal safety gear.

Basic vehicle biosecurity kit

- Stiff brushes and a scraper for cleaning boots and equipment
- Detergent or disinfectant for disinfecting boots and equipment
- Dustpan and brush for cleaning cabin of vehicles
- Hand sanitiser or hand wash
- Rubber boots or boot covers or spare pair of boots
- Strong plastic bags for disposable items/dirty clothing/shoes
- Disposable gloves
- 5 L water.
- Plastic tray and/or a bucket (for use as a footbath and to clean equipment)



Providing parking areas for visitors and contractors reduces the area of the property put at risk



Biosecurity signs raise farm biosecurity awareness with visitors and contractors



Check tyre tread for weed seeds, mud and plant debris



Apply a decontaminant solution to all surfaces that have come in contact with mud or dirt.

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Seeds can be spread on clothing as well as machinery



Ensure all vehicles are free of soil and plant material before entering and leaving the farm

To clean vehicles and equipment effectively, use a detergent and degreaser and pay particular attention to tyres, radiator grills, wheel arches, sump guards floor mats and under carriages where seeds and dirt can lodge. If you use high pressure air to clean vehicles and equipment, make sure soil and plant material isn't blown into crops or waterways.

ONCE YOU GET THERE

Sign the visitor register

Anyone visiting a farm should sign a register if provided. This allows producers to record movements to and from the property and is an effective way to trace the spread of pests.

Use designated laneways and tracks

Equipment travelling through production areas can spread plant pests. Keep to laneways and minimise contact with any crops.

Close farm gates

Livestock can carry soil on their hooves, and pick up weed seeds and plant diseases when walking through crops. Ensure stock are kept in designated paddocks is important in preventing the spread of pests within the farm.

Report anything unusual

Notify the farmer or manager if you see any unusual plant pests, weeds or obvious plant health concerns, so appropriate action can be taken.

BEFORE YOU LEAVE

Clean, clean, clean!

It's just as important to leave the property as you entered it. Make use of vehicle wash-down stations, high pressure hoses and appropriate detergents to clean all soil and plant material from your vehicle, equipment and clothing. This is especially important if you are moving onto another property.

Sign out on the visitor register

For your own safety, the register will let the farmer know if you are still on the property.

Fill out your vehicle logbook

Use your vehicle log book which details the date, time and site location of visits. This information is important when tracing the potential spread of a pest.

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

EXOTIC PLANT PEST HOTLINE
1800 084 881

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Contractors' checklist

	Yes	To do	Comments
People			
Owner or farm manager informed of your intention to visit the property			
Owner or farm manager asked about any weeds, plant pests or restricted areas of the property			
Owner or farm manager asked about their specific farm biosecurity requirements			
Visitor register completed if available			
Staff made aware of all biosecurity requirements on the property			
Log books are well maintained to record all movements between properties			
Clothing, footwear, and tools are free of soil and plant material before entering farm			
Equipment and vehicles			
Machinery, vehicles, and equipment are thoroughly inspected for insects, soil and plant material prior to arriving and when entering the property			
Vehicles and equipment are cleaned inside and out before arriving at the property			
Designated parking areas are used for all non-farm vehicles and equipment			
Each vehicle carries a biosecurity kit and contractors' biosecurity checklist			
Movement of vehicles kept to farm tracks and laneways whenever possible			
Available wash-down facilities are used for all vehicles and equipment before entering production areas and when leaving the property			
Farm gates are closed after passing through them			
Unfamiliar, unusual or new plant pests reported to farmer, Department or Agriculture or Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881			

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