

Is your agronomic business a biosecurity risk?



**GRAINS FARM
BIOSECURITY
PROGRAM**

Anyone who travels from paddock to paddock or property to property poses a potential farm biosecurity risk.

Advisors, consultants, agronomists and other industry personnel must be aware of the risk that their movements pose and take steps to mitigate spreading pests.

Weed seeds, plant material and soil carrying pests and diseases can easily be carried onto properties on vehicles and equipment and even on clothes.

New pests carried with you in the course of your work could result in management issues long after you've left the property. You could introduce a new pest onto a client's property or spread one over a wide area.

Manage biosecurity risks by with simple biosecurity practices that will safeguard you and your clients.

Consider biosecurity from the very beginning. Ask the owner what they expect from you and find out how you can assist each other.

TOP TIPS FOR REDUCING BIOSECURITY RISKS

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



PEST...

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

Ask:

- 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?
- Do you need to use farm vehicles instead of your own?
- Is there a designated parking area?
- Is there a wash-down procedure on arrival and departure?
- Are there procedures for notifying the grower as you enter and leave the property?
- Are there gates that must be closed?

2. Employ a 'keep it clean' policy when conducting field work.

- Good hygiene practice is the key to effective farm biosecurity. Apply this to vehicles, machinery, footwear, clothing, equipment and tools.
- Locate on-farm wash down facilities and ensure vehicles and equipment are clean before moving to the next property.

3. Ensure compliance by all employees.

Incorporate biosecurity protocols into induction packages for your staff, and ensure employees are updated on the specific requirements of individual clients.

Review and update protocols for working on each client's property on an annual basis or as required.

4. Carry a vehicle biosecurity kit at all times.

Contents include provisions for cleaning hands, boots, clothing, equipment and vehicle interior; disposable overalls; spare shoes; disinfectant solution. Incorporate a foot bath regime prior to site access and departure.

5. Keep a record of all farm visits by employees.

Records of travel will allow biosecurity authorities to trace forward and trace back in the event of a pest incursion.

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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).
- Reputation damage to you and your organisation.
- Failure to take on responsibility and 'duty of care'.

Agricultural consultants are at the forefront of best practice. Be biosecurity aware when moving between sites as part of your business.

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



For a full list of Grains Biosecurity Officers in your region, scan the QR code or visit grainsbiosecurity.com.au/contact



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For more information go to: grainsbiosecurity.com.au

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 (enough for cleaning equipment and boots)
- hand sanitiser or hand wash
- strong plastic bags for disposable items, dirty clothing or shoes
- 5 L water.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

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

