

Grains industry farm biosecurity – What can you do?

Biosecurity is the protection of your property from the entry and spread of harmful exotic pests (insects, pathogens and weeds).

Biosecurity measures implemented on farm by growers play a key role in protecting the Australian grains industry from exotic pests. Effective biosecurity can keep Australia free from many of the pests that affect plant industries overseas, providing a real trade benefit domestically and internationally.

In addition, early detection and response to new pests can reduce the impact on your farm and industry and increase the chance of successful eradication.

Six easy ways to protect your farm

1. Be aware of biosecurity threats to your crop
2. Ensure your seed is pest-free, and preferably certified
3. Maintain good farm hygiene
4. Check for pests frequently, both in-crop and in stored grain
5. Abide by biosecurity legislative regulations
6. If you see anything unusual, report it!

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

EXOTIC PLANT PEST HOTLINE
1800 084 881





What are the risks?

New and potentially damaging pests can be brought onto your farm through a number of pathways. Simple preventative measures and regular monitoring will help reduce the risk of a new pest establishing on the farm.

What do staff and visitors bring to your farm?

Plant material, soil and pests can easily be carried between farms and regions. To help protect your farm:

- Have biosecurity signs in clear view
- Identify high risk visitors, such as contractors that are regularly in contact with other properties or visitors returning from overseas
- Ensure people's footwear and clothing are clean before entering the farm
- Provide footbaths to clean boots

Are vehicles and machinery coming onto your farm clean?

Soil and plant material containing pests and weeds can be carried on vehicles and equipment such as tractors, harvesters, sprayers, seeders, balers, augers and field bins. Protect your farm by:

- Inspecting vehicles and machinery before allowing them onto your farm
- Providing designated parking areas for visitors
- Providing wash-down facilities, including a hard pad and high pressure water

What else is in purchased seed and stored grain?

Even seed which appears healthy can contain weed seeds and pests. Obtain clean cereal and pasture seed from reputable suppliers and ask questions about its source.

To protect your stored grain a combination of good hygiene and monitoring, plus well managed aeration will reduce pest levels and increase quality.

Steps to ensure stored grain remains high quality include:

- Maintain good hygiene – clean storage facilities and remove grain residues from equipment before harvest
- Ensure harvesters do not bring pests or weeds onto your property. The first grain through the header can contain pests
- Install aeration fans in storages to cool grain – this will reduce insect breeding and improve grain quality
- Always carry out phosphine fumigations in well maintained sealed silos
- Monitor stored grain each month for insects, grain temperature and moisture





How closely do you look at your crop?

New pests will occasionally enter and establish in your crop. Regular monitoring is a core part of your farm management practices and gives you the best chance of spotting a pest soon after it arrives. The earlier you detect a new pest, the better the chances of eradication. To effectively detect something new:

- Know the normal pests associated with your crops – look out for anything unusual
- Investigate all crops that are not performing or are showing pest symptoms – get them checked out if you are not sure of the cause
- Record all surveillance activities

Could purchased livestock impact on your grain crop?

Livestock can carry pests onto your farm attached externally or deposited in their droppings. Grain and fodder used for stock feed could also carry pests onto your farm. To reduce the risk:

- Isolate newly purchased stock in a holding paddock for at least seven days
- Feed livestock in the same paddock or the same area of each paddock. Check this area regularly for new pests and weeds

VISITORS

**PLEASE RESPECT
FARM BIOSECURITY**

Please phone or visit the house before entering.

Do not enter property without prior approval.
Keep to roadways and laneways.

 Plant Health
AUSTRALIA

Case study – Khapra beetle incursion

Khapra beetle is a serious pest of stored grain products, which can cause losses of up to 75%. Australia currently does not have Khapra beetle, and if it became established there would be large trade and production impacts.

In 2007, Khapra beetle was discovered in personal effects shipped into Australia from overseas. An official response was mounted following the detection, with the infested home covered with shrink-wrap gas proof sheeting and fumigated using methyl bromide, the only viable and internationally agreed treatment for the pest.

Trapping and inspection surveys were undertaken to ensure the pest had not spread. Successful eradication was declared in 2009 following evidence from trapping surveillance which included over 1,000 trap inspections from nine sites.

The effective containment and eradication of Khapra beetle ensured the Australian grains industry continues to produce and export grain without the threat of this major pest.

The eradication was successful because of the speed at which the Khapra beetle was detected and reported.





Have you spotted anything unusual?

Report it!

Check your farm frequently for the presence of new pests and unusual symptoms. Make sure you are familiar with common crop and storage pests so you can tell something is different.

If you see anything unusual, call the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline 1800 084 881.

The earlier a suspect pest is detected and reported the higher the chance of eradication or effective implementation of pest control measures, and lower the long-term damage to individual growers and the grains industry. It is to your benefit to report a new pest detection as early as possible.

Calls to the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline are forwarded to an experienced person in the department of primary industries in each state or territory. Every report will be checked out and treated confidentially.

If you suspect you have found an exotic plant pest, the following general precautions should be taken:

- Restrict the movement of people and equipment near the affected area
- Wash hands, clothes and boots that have been in contact with affected plant material or soil
- Do not touch, move or transport affected plant material without advice from your state department of primary industries

“Early detection and response to new pests can reduce the impact on your farm and industry”

Where do I find out more?

More information about good farm biosecurity practices can be found in the Farm Biosecurity Manual for the Grains Industry, which has been produced through the Grains Farm Biosecurity Program.

The Grains Farm Biosecurity Program, funded by growers through Grains Producers Australia and managed by Plant Health Australia, includes Grains Biosecurity Officers who are based in grain producing states. These Grains Biosecurity Officers can help you with further information on grains biosecurity.

Information on the program, an electronic copy of the Farm Biosecurity Manual and contact details for the Grains Biosecurity Officers can be found at:

www.phau.com.au/biosecurity/grains.

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