

GRAINS FARM BIOSECURITY PROGRAM

Is your farm at risk? – People movement

Being aware of who enters your property and the risks they may pose allows you to manage biosecurity threats to your farm.

Agricultural practices increasingly involve movement of people between properties. It is important that this activity does not introduce unwanted plant pests including weeds, diseases and insects. Anyone who enters a farm in their day-to-day operations can spread pests in soil and plant material carried on boots and clothing. Consider the risks posed by you and your family, farm workers, agronomists and consultants, earthmoving companies, utility providers, research personnel, contractors, mining operators and other people who enter a farm for work or non-work purposes.

Pest is a term that covers all insects, mites, snails, nematodes, pathogens (diseases) and weeds that can damage plants or plant products.

Managing the risks associated with people movement can be simple and will help to safeguard your livelihood as a farmer.

Top 6 tips for managing people movement on your property

1. Install farm biosecurity signs

- Have biosecurity signs with farm contact details at key entry points on your property. Signs on external farm gates play an important part in raising farm biosecurity awareness with visitors and contractors.

2. Keep records

- Maintain a visitor register to record visitor movements on farm. This can help in the event of a pest incursion.

3. Give biosecurity briefings

- Brief all workers, contractors and visitors to your farm on your farm biosecurity measures and expectations. Providing a copy of the Contractors' checklist, available from: www.phau.com.au/gfbp or leave copies at external gate entrances will help raise awareness of your farm hygiene practices.
- To ensure your property does not become the source of pest infections for others, you have a responsibility to inform contractors of any declared or notifiable pests already present on your farm. This will enable them to take appropriate action to reduce the risk of spreading pests to new areas.
- Provide copies of farm maps to visitors outlining roadways and areas that vehicles can be driven.
- Provide all workers or visitors with the necessary equipment to support your farm hygiene requirements. This may include disposable gloves and boot covers, overalls, sock covers and hand sanitiser to be used in specific areas of the property.



Biosecurity signs raise farm biosecurity awareness with visitors and contractors



Seeds can be spread on clothing as well as machinery



Provide all workers or visitors with the necessary equipment to support your farm hygiene requirements.



4. Maintain farm hygiene

- Simple hygiene practices can minimise the risk of new pests entering or spreading around your property.
- ‘Keep it clean’ – ensure all vehicles, machinery, footwear and clothing are free of soil and plant material before entering and leaving the farm. Support this with a concrete wash-down area with a sump that can be easily inspected for new weeds or other pests.
- A fact sheet on washdown facilities is available from www.phau.com.au/gfbp
- Keep farm vehicle floor mats clean of soil and weed seeds, and other debris which may harbour pests.



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

5. Control vehicle movement on your property

- Keep visitor vehicle movement to a minimum in the production areas of the property.
- Have a designated visitor’s parking area located for easy inspection of new weeds or other pests
- Where practical, use a farm vehicle for visitor transport around the property.
- Where managing a specific pest on your property work in the clean areas first and contaminated areas last. Clean machinery (including tyres) before moving from an infested area to a clean area.



Providing areas for visitor parking for field days, contractors etc. helps to reduce the area of the property put at risk

6. Regularly review your practices

- Review the management of people movement on your farm on a regular basis. If something isn’t working, modify it to better suit your business and biosecurity needs.

For further information on how to best manage people movement on your property, for farm biosecurity manuals or other factsheets visit the Plant Health Australia website www.planthealthaustralia.com.au/gfbp, the Farm Biosecurity website www.farmbiosecurity.com.au or contact your states Grain Biosecurity Officer.

The Grains Farm Biosecurity Program is managed by PHA and funded by growers through Grain Producers Australia together with the governments of New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Victoria and Western Australia. Grains Biosecurity Officers in these five states develop and deliver materials to raise awareness and deliver training to growers, consultants and other industry stakeholders. Go to planthealthaustralia.com.au/gfbp 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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