SIX STEPS TO FARM BIOSECURITY

Preparing and implementing your property's biosecurity plan

STEP 1

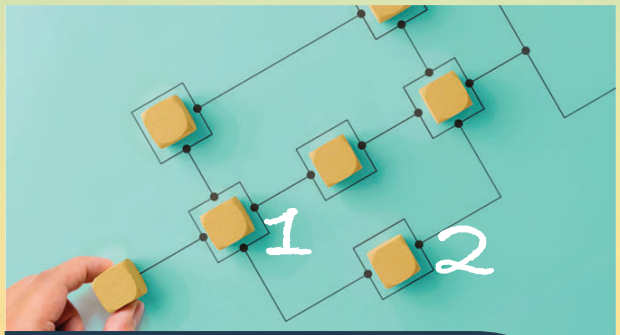
Map your property

Visualise key areas, entry/exit points.

STEP 2

Identify biosecurity risks and mitigating actions

Pests, diseases, weeds and their pathways.



STEP 3

Prioritise

Develop strategies
Quarantine, hygiene, pest monitoring and control.

Prioritise actions
Focus on high-risk areas.

SIX STEPS TO FARM BIOSECURITY

STEP 4

Implement your biosecurity plan

Put the plan into action
Ensure compliance.

Maintain records
Track activities and interventions.

STEP 5

Communicate expectations

Share the plan
Train everyone on procedures and their roles.

Use clear signage
Remind people of protocols.

STEP 6

Review and update your plan

Regular checks, record analysis, adapt as needed. At least annually, or after an incident as a part of business planning.

MAP YOUR PROPERTY

How can pests and diseases spread on your property?

A property map is essential for a Farm Biosecurity Plan, highlighting key features like entry points, the house, sheds, and washdown facilities.

On a map of your property, clearly outline the boundaries and mark the following:

- ☑ **Access Area –** for vehicles and people (staff, visitors, delivery/collection, equipment).
- ☑ **Separation Area –** carparks and vehicle paths used to access different parts of the property.
- ☑ **Farming or Production Area –** this is the zone where staff, vehicles, machinery, equipment operate. This zone cannot be accessed without using appropriate sanitation measures.
- ☑ Additional risk pathways through which pests and diseases may enter *(*refer to the *Six Risk Pathways* on page 3).
- ☑ Best location for gate and other signs to communicate risk reduction measures.
- ☑ **Cleaning and Sanitisation Area –** for people, equipment and machinery.

Property Map example see Figure 1.

FIGURE 1: PROPERTY MAP EXAMPLE

KEY Vehicle Washdown Area · Foot Bath · Sign-in Book/App · Change Area · Biosecurity Signage

MAP YOUR PROPERTY

Property Zoning

Zoning your farm into different management areas creates a system on your farm that is tiered and spreads the risk across several points. A three-zone system helps to create separation and recognise the different management required between various areas on the property e.g. visitors accessing the house would have a different risk level to a person accessing fields and production areas.

Zone	What Is It?	Examples	Recommended Biosecurity Action
Cool Zone	Areas where visitors may access property but have minimum to no contact with crops.	Little action required. No need to limit access.	Little action required.
Warm Zone	Area where some people and vehicles may need to access, in order to drop off inputs and/or pick up product.	The Warm Zone is the 'roadway' for essential vehicles that need to come onto farm. This zone may include roads through the farm to sheds. E.g; trucks picking up crop products, dropping off fertiliser, or fuel deliveries.	May not be feasible to limit access. Ensure the area is kept clean and preferably well gravelled. Monitor regularly for weeds and pests.
Hot Zone	This is the area where crop production is located and vehicles, machinery and equipment operate.	The Hot Zone is for vehicles, machinery, and equipment, but they must take appropriate measures before entering. For example, machinery should not be moved in or out of the zone without precautions. Large enterprises or those managing specific diseases may need separate Hot Zones within a property.	Restrict access to this zone. People or vehicles who have a need to enter apply. **Come Clean Go Clean** practices. Visit **dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/plant/come-clean-go-clean.**

Access for Utility and Service Provider

Plan access for **utility providers** and their **contractors**, and provide suggested routes for the workers to take to gain access. Consider where the poles/utility fixtures are located and associated risks.

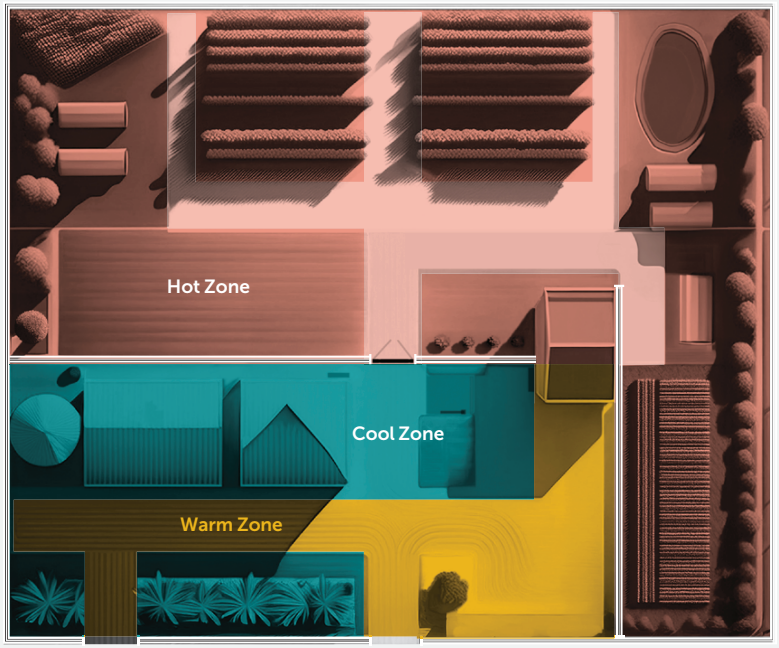


FIGURE 2: PROPERTY ZONING EXAMPLE

Resource availability and cost are key factors in determining what measures you might choose to put in place. It's best to assess all risks before proceeding to ensure that you are targeting the areas that will have highest impact/return on investment. The Farm Biosecurity self-assessment will help do that.

For more details visit farmbiosecurity.com.au/using-property-zoning-to-implement-biosecurity-on-farm.

STEP 2

IDENTIFY BIOSECURITY RISKS & MITIGATING ACTIONS

Vehicles & equipment

GOAL

To reduce the likelihood of vehicles and equipment introducing and spreading pests, diseases and weeds onto the property.

Biosecurity Practice	Example of practice and its importance	Practice in use SELECT ONE OPTION	Priority SELECT ONE OPTION	Actions INSERT EACH ACTION REQUIRED	QA systems/Service provider LIST EXISTING SYSTEMS & OR SERVICE PROVIDER
One main entry point to farm site.	A single-entry point provides an opportunity to inform visitors of procedures and keep track of who is coming onto the property.	(●) Yes ( ) No ( ) In progress ( ) N/A	( ) Immediate ( ) Future (●) N/A		
Separate car parking from production and packing areas.	Reduces the risk of pests spreading into production areas. Visitors and staff park in designated car park and signs are in place to communicate this.	( ) Yes ( ) No (●) In progress ( ) N/A	( ) Immediate (●) Future ( ) N/A	Implement designated parking areas	
Cleaning vehicles and equipment before they leave your property minimises the spread of weed seeds, soil-borne diseases and pests.	In place at the point of entry, before vehicle/equipment can come onto the farm, including when moving between farm properties. This washes off any pests that may be carried on the vehicle/equipment.	( ) Yes (●) No ( ) In progress ( ) N/A	(●) Immediate ( ) Future ( ) N/A	Implement a cleaning procedure for equipment used	
Requirement to demonstrate vehicles have been washed down before entry.	Receipt from car wash. *Alternative to washdown station on the farm.*	( ) Yes ( ) No (●) In progress ( ) N/A	( ) Immediate (●) Future ( ) N/A		
Farm gate signs displaying contact information for every-one arriving on farm and that biosecurity protocols are in place. This includes all farm visitors, contractors, and staff.	Farm biosecurity signs at each entry point to farm indicate that farm biosecurity practices are in place. Signs can also be used to direct traffic to designated areas. *See also the next point.*	( ) Yes (●) No ( ) In progress ( ) N/A	(●) Immediate ( ) Future ( ) N/A	Contact AUSVEG for farm biosecurity signage	
Use established vehicle paths on farm.	Limiting vehicle movement helps to reduce the risk of spreading pests/ diseases into crop areas.	(●) Yes ( ) No ( ) In progress ( ) N/A	( ) Immediate ( ) Future (●) N/A		

GOAL

To ensure that people entering the farm do not bring or spread plant pests, diseases or weeds, and are aware of the farm's biosecurity requirements.

Staff & farm visitors

Biosecurity Practice	Example of practice and its importance	Practice in use SELECT ONE OPTION	Priority SELECT ONE OPTION	Actions INSERT EACH ACTION REQUIRED	QA systems/Service provider LIST EXISTING SYSTEMS & OR SERVICE PROVIDER
Visitor sign in register.	Check in app or paper visitor register to record who is coming on to the property and when they leave; this can help with tracing if a new pest/disease is found on the farm. This could include asking them if they have recently been to another farm. It is also an opportunity to communicate any farm biosecurity requirements.	○ Yes ○ No ◉ In progress ○ N/A	◉ Immediate ○ Future ○ N/A	Implement a visitor register or check in app.	
Footwear cleaning stations at entry points to production areas for visitors.	This reduces the risk of pests being carried onto and around the farm. Visitors may also carry their own, or change their boots on arrival.	○ Yes ◉ No ○ In progress ○ N/A	◉ Immediate ○ Future ○ N/A	Implement foot baths or ensure visitors have portable cleaning processes such as disinfecting sprays for their boots.	
Footwear and tools/ equipment cleaning stations for staff.	Footbaths or sprays at entry point to different farm production areas. E.g. between blocks, and farm properties. Or make kits for staff to carry with them and use. This helps reduce the spread of pests around the farm.	○ Yes ◉ No ○ In progress ○ N/A	◉ Immediate ○ Future ○ N/A	Implement footbaths or kits for staff.	
Train staff in farm biosecurity practices (ideally as part of a staff induction process).	This can include some of the measures identified in this checklist such as what to do when coming and going to different parts of the farm; what to look for; how to report.	○ Yes ○ No ◉ In progress ○ N/A	○ Immediate ◉ Future ○ N/A	Implement an induction process	
Provide staff access to tools and resources to disinfect footwear, tools and equipment so that they have what they need to implement best practices.	Provide boot brushes and spray bottles containing disinfectant so that staff can decontaminate footwear and tools between blocks. Resources to help with identification of pests/diseases and what to do if they find them.	◉ Yes ○ No ○ In progress ○ N/A	○ Immediate ○ Future ◉ N/A		
Are there items that are not permitted to be brought onsite?	There may be items that are not permitted on site for health, safety or other QA reasons.	◉ Yes ○ No ○ In progress ○ N/A	○ Immediate ○ Future ◉ N/A		

STEP 2

VIEW BIOSECURITY PLAN

Farm inputs

GOAL

To ensure that products coming onto the farm are not carrying pests, diseases and weeds on the property.

Biosecurity Practice	Example of practice and its importance	Practice in use SELECT ONE OPTION	Priority SELECT ONE OPTION	Actions INSERT EACH ACTION REQUIRED	QA systems/Service provider LIST EXISTING SYSTEMS & OR SERVICE PROVIDER
Planting material and seeds sourced from reputable suppliers.	Source inputs from suppliers that have good biosecurity practices in place. This reduces the risk of pests being introduced through planting materials.	○ Yes ○ No ◉ In progress ○ N/A	◉ Immediate ○ Future ○ N/A		
Planting material inspected upon arrival for plant pests, disease symptoms and weeds.	Record if planting material has pests or disease symptoms, or weeds, or if they are clean. If there are pests, contact the supplier to let them know. Report unusual sightings to the **Exotic Plant Pest hotline: 1800 084 881.** These records help with training in the event of an incursion.	○ Yes ○ No ◉ In progress ○ N/A	◉ Immediate ○ Future ○ N/A		
Record source of inputs and when they were ordered and delivered.	Keep records of what is sourced, date of order and delivery, along with pest/disease inspection results – both presence and absence.	◉ Yes ○ No ○ In progress ○ N/A	○ Immediate ○ Future ◉ N/A		
Composts, mulches, amendments are sourced from reputable suppliers.	Source inputs from suppliers that have good biosecurity practices in place. This reduces the risk of introducing new pests.	◉ Yes ○ No ○ In progress ○ N/A	○ Immediate ○ Future ◉ N/A		
Records maintained for sources of other inputs.	Keep records of supplier certifications, and ingredients of inputs such as mulches and composts.	◉ Yes ○ No ○ In progress ○ N/A	○ Immediate ○ Future ◉ N/A		
Inputs delivered and unloaded away from production area.	Inputs are unloaded away from production areas, and drainage is also directed away from production area.	○ Yes ○ No ◉ In progress ○ N/A	○ Immediate ◉ Future ○ N/A		
Water is sourced from a clean source or treated. Drainage is away from production areas.	Water can be a source of pathogens (e.g; Pythium, Fusarium, Phytophthora). Regular testing can be conducted to determine this. Records of presence/absence of any pest should be kept.	◉ Yes ○ No ○ In progress ○ N/A	○ Immediate ○ Future ◉ N/A		
Inputs such as composts and mulches stored away from production areas and ensure any drainage is also away from the production area.	This reduces the risk of any potential pests/diseases/weed from entering the production area by wind or water.	◉ Yes ○ No ○ In progress ○ N/A	○ Immediate ○ Future ◉ N/A		

Waste and weeds

GOAL
Reduce habitat and inoculum sources and potential for spread of pests, diseases, weeds.

Biosecurity Practice	Example of practice and its importance	Practice in use SELECT ONE OPTION	Priority SELECT ONE OPTION	Actions INSERT EACH ACTION REQUIRED	QA systems/Service provider LIST EXISTING SYSTEMS & OR SERVICE PROVIDER
Crops and weeds are monitored regularly for pests.	Regular monitoring helps identify anything unusual early on, and earlier detection means a better chance of reducing the pest impact.	(●) Yes ( ) No ( ) In progress ( ) N/A	( ) Immediate ( ) Future (●) N/A		
Records kept about monitoring results and the control measures used, and their effectiveness.	Records will help with tracing, development of management options.	( ) Yes ( ) No (●) In progress ( ) N/A	(●) Immediate ( ) Future ( ) N/A		
Crop waste is cleared and discarded away from product-ion areas, particularly if it is affected by pests.	Crop waste can provide a habitat where pests can build -up to provide more inoculum to infect the crop again.	(●) Yes ( ) No ( ) In progress ( ) N/A	( ) Immediate ( ) Future (●) N/A		
Weed management is in place (including monitoring and record keeping).	Weeds can impact on crop production in their own right but can also provide a host plant for pests to live and reproduce on, which means there is more inoculum to infect the crop.	(●) Yes ( ) No ( ) In progress ( ) N/A	( ) Immediate ( ) Future (●) N/A		
Good drainage; direct waste water away from the crop.	Draining water away from the crop means that any potential pests will not enter the production area.	(●) Yes ( ) No ( ) In progress ( ) N/A	( ) Immediate ( ) Future (●) N/A		

STEP 2

Packaging, bins & pallets

GOAL

To ensure that production system components are clean and minimise risk of carry over and spread of pests and diseases.

Biosecurity Practice	Example of practice and its importance	Practice in use SELECT ONE OPTION	Priority SELECT ONE OPTION	Actions INSERT EACH ACTION REQUIRED	QA systems/Service provider LIST EXISTING SYSTEMS & OR SERVICE PROVIDER
Footwear cleaning stations available between different zones on the farm, and between farm properties.	Cleaning footwear between farm zones and properties reduces risk of spreading pests, diseases, and weeds across the farm.	○ Yes ○ No ◉ In progress ○ N/A	◉ Immediate ○ Future ○ N/A	Ensure footbaths around packing areas	
Crates, bins, pallets etc. are washed and disinfected after use.	This reduces carry over of pests/diseases/weed seeds from previous produce to the next harvest; if crates/bins etc. have come from another property they may carry new pests.	◉ Yes ○ No ○ In progress ○ N/A	○ Immediate ○ Future ◉ N/A		
Clean packaging, bins, pallets are stored appropriately away from production areas.	This reduces the risk of contamination from the production area.	◉ Yes ○ No ○ In progress ○ N/A	○ Immediate ○ Future ◉ N/A		
Tools and equipment are disinfected after use, and during use as required.	Cleaning tools/equipment between use reduces transmission or diseases and pests.	◉ Yes ○ No ○ In progress ○ N/A	○ Immediate ○ Future ◉ N/A		
Ensure good drainage away from production areas to reduce risk of waterborne pests.	Water can be a source of plant pathogens that cause disease.	◉ Yes ○ No ○ In progress ○ N/A	○ Immediate ○ Future ◉ N/A		
Packing shed and equipment is cleaned and disinfected on regular basis and also during breaks.	This reduces the risk of build up of pests/diseases.	○ Yes ○ No ◉ In progress ○ N/A	◉ Immediate ○ Future ○ N/A		
Irrigation water is treated/ sanitised.	Records of presence/absence of any detection should be kept.	◉ Yes ○ No ○ In progress ○ N/A	○ Immediate ○ Future ◉ N/A		
Best practice in own production nursery.	This reduces the risk of introducing pests into the cropping area and ensures starting with a healthy crop.	○ Yes ○ No ○ In progress ◉ N/A	○ Immediate ○ Future ◉ N/A		

Weather / WIND, RAIN & EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS

GOAL
Manage risks associated with unexpected/extreme weather events.

Biosecurity Practice	Example of practice and its importance	Practice in use SELECT ONE OPTION	Priority SELECT ONE OPTION	Actions INSERT EACH ACTION REQUIRED	QA Systems LIST EXISTING IMPLEMENTED SYSTEMS
Regularly monitor and survey crops.	Regular monitoring helps identify anything unusual early on, and earlier detection means a better chance of reducing the pest impact.	(●) Yes ( ) No ( ) In progress ( ) N/A	( ) Immediate ( ) Future (●) N/A		
Use traps to aid surveillance.	Traps can reduce labour resource requirements and can be more sensitive and detection pests. Record presence/ absence of pests.	( ) Yes (●) No ( ) In progress ( ) N/A	( ) Immediate (●) Future ( ) N/A		
Train staff to be aware of common and exotic plant pests	By knowing what is commonly present, staff will also be able to recognise and report anything that is unusual. This means that there is an earlier opportunity to respond to the pest.	( ) Yes ( ) No (●) In progress ( ) N/A	( ) Immediate (●) Future ( ) N/A		
Report usual pests.	Early reporting means that a response is also quicker to control the pest.	( ) Yes (●) No ( ) In progress ( ) N/A	(●) Immediate ( ) Future ( ) N/A	Spread Awareness of the EXOTIC PLANT PEST HOTLINE 1800 084 881	
Record extreme weather events (e.g; flooding, dust storms) and follow-up with inspections on farm for new signs of weeds, diseases etc.	Weather events can present different biosecurity challenges. Understanding what these are means you can be better prepared to reduce the risk.	(●) Yes ( ) No ( ) In progress ( ) N/A	( ) Immediate ( ) Future (●) N/A		

BIOSECURITY PLAN

PROPERTY DETAILS	
Property Name	X Farms
Location/ Address	Melbourne, Vic
Production Type	Vegetable rotation

Key contact names			
Name	X	Name	
Position	Farm Manager	Position	
Contact Number	04XX XXX XXX	Contact Number	

STEP 1 **Map your property** ☑

STEP 2 **Identify biosecurity risks and mitigating actions** ☑

Vehicles and equipment ✓

- ✓ Vehicle and machinery hygiene practices
- ✓ Entry of vehicles and machinery

Staff and farm visitors

- ✓ Visitors and staff
- ✓ Contractors
- ✓ Reporting
- Training
- Record keeping

Farm inputs

- ✓ Planting material and seeds
- Water
- Growing media, fertiliser and containers

Waste and weeds

- Produce
- ✓ Waste management
- ✓ Product packaging and containers

Packaging, bins and pallets

- Packaging hygiene / storing practices
- ✓ Tool and maintenance practices
- Water management

Weather

- Crop surveillance
- Train staff on pests
- ✓ Report unusual pests
- ✓ Use traps for surveillance
- Record extreme weather and inspect

BIOSECURITY PLAN

STEP 3 Prioritise ☐

Biosecurity Strategies / LIST BELOW

1	Footwear cleaning stations at entry points to production areas for visitors.
2	Farm gate signs displaying contact information for everyone arriving on farm.
3	Visitor sign in register.
4	
5	
6	
7	

STEP 4 Implement ☐

Implementation of Biosecurity action / LIST BELOW

Implement foot baths or ensure visitors use a biosecurity kit to disinfect boots.
Contact AUSVEG for farm biosecurity signage.
Implement a visitor sign in log or a farm check in app.

STEP 5 Communicate expectations ☐

Biosecurity plan HAS BEEN COMMUNICATED TO:	Expectations HAS BEEN COMMUNICATED TO:
✓ Staff	✓ Staff
✓ Contactors	✓ Contactors
✓ Visitors	✓ Visitors

Notes

STEP 6 Agreement for review and update ☐

Signed Date XX/XX/XXXX	**Next Review Date** XX/X/XXXX
Name X	**Name**
Position Farm Manager	**Position**

PLANNING NOTES

PLANNING NOTES

AUSVEG

ausveg.com.au

For more information please contact AUSVEG
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