

BIOSECURITY



Biosecurity is about reducing the risk of diseases, weeds, or pests entering, spreading, or leaving your farm.

Use this checklist to identify ways you can help protect your farm.



The Biosecurity WOF was developed with input from farmers directly affected by the *Mycoplasma bovis* outbreak. It is recommended that you ask your veterinarian to help you work through this checklist.



Stock movements

Any animals that come onto your farm are a potential source of disease for your herd. Sending animals away for grazing could expose them to diseases and weeds that you may not have on your farm.

Before purchase/entry

- **Do you use a pre-purchase checklist when you buy or lease cattle?**
 - Ask questions about animal health, TB status, vaccinations, and disease and treatment history.
 - Use a pre-purchase checklist to make sure that you don't forget to ask about, or check, something important. (For an example see www.dairynz.co.nz/m-bovis-pre-purchase-checklist)
 - If in doubt consult your veterinarian for specific disease management advice.
- **Do you comply with your NAIT requirements?**
 - Make sure all sending and receiving movements are sent to the NAIT system for all animal movements.
 - Make sure animals have NAIT tags.

Sending animals off the milking platform or home farm

- **Do you talk to your transport truck driver about biosecurity risks?**
 - Talk with your transporter to make sure your animals are transported in a clean truck.
 - Do not allow truck effluent to be dumped on-farm.
- **Do you talk to your grazier about biosecurity risks?**
 - Talk to your grazier about managing grazing to avoid nose-to-nose contact with other stock.
 - Consult your veterinarian for specific disease management advice for animals grazing away, preferably before sending them away, and especially if you intend to bring them home.
 - Treat your animals as new arrivals when they return home.

New arrivals

- **Do you keep newly-arrived animals separate for seven days?**
 - Keep newly-arrived animals separate from resident animals to check the health status of the new animals.
 - Monitor new arrivals for signs of disease and talk to your veterinarian if you are concerned.

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Managing access on-farm

Footwear, personal protective equipment (PPE), gear, vehicles, and equipment can spread diseases and weed seeds. Disinfecting after cleaning minimises the chance of spreading unwanted diseases.

Boot Wash and Disinfection Point

- **Do you have signs reminding visitors of your biosecurity requirements?**
 - This could be combined with your health and safety signage at the gate. Include the name and contact phone number of the farm owner/manager.

- **Do you have a place to clean and disinfect footwear, PPE, and gear?**
 - Provide water, a bucket, and a scrubbing brush for cleaning.
 - Provide disinfectant in a footbath and/or spray bottle. Replace the disinfectant in the footbath daily, and in a spray bottle at least once a week, or when it becomes discoloured.
 - If possible, have a cleaning and disinfection point at the tanker track entrance and at the dairy shed, or at the main farm entrance and the usual place visitors arrive on farm, e.g. the woolshed / stockyards.
 - Provide clear signs in case you are not present when visitors arrive.

- **Do you supply PPE for visitors and farm staff?**
 - Farm workers should leave their PPE on site and not take it home or to other farms.
 - Consider providing some spare PPE for visitors to use.
 - PPE must be cleaned of all dirt and muck after use, and then disinfected. This is a 2-step process.

Equipment coming on-farm

- **Do you make sure machinery and equipment coming on-farm is clean?**
 - Make sure machinery and equipment, especially equipment used for handling animals or giving treatments, is cleaned and disinfected between farms.
 - Discuss this with contractors or cover in agreements so that contractors know your requirements before arriving on your farm. This link provides useful advice http://www.npca.org.nz/images/stories/NPCA/PDF/a16_keepitclean_2015_lr.pdf

- **Do you have a dedicated washing point for machinery with a waste area for water run-off?**
 - Make sure that waste water does not go into waterways or your effluent irrigation system as this is another way to spread seeds.

Transport around the farm

- **Do you provide a farm vehicle to transport visitors and contractors around the farm?**
 - If possible, provide a farm vehicle for on-farm transport.



Farm structure setup

Other farms may have a different animal health status to your herd and should be treated as a possible source of infection for your herd. Some diseases are spread by nose-to-nose contact between animals.

Farm layout

- **Does your farm have one main entry point?**
 - If possible, have one main access to the farm and close off any alternate entry points.
- **Do you have a map of your farm with identified biosecurity risk areas?**
 - **Map out your farm to identify:**
 - Green zones: Areas where no stock can enter i.e. tanker tracks, house driveways, stock truck access ways
 - Blue or amber zones: Intermediate areas for holding incoming animals, sick animals and activities such as pet food storage and pick-up
 - Red zones: Areas where stock graze. A no-go zone for visitors and machinery unless they have followed the procedures above
- **Do you have a dedicated area for sick animals?**
 - Keeping sick animals separate to the main herd(s) or flock(s) will enable better monitoring and management of these animals, and may reduce the spread of disease on the farm.

Boundary fences

- **Do you have secure boundary fences that prevent nose-to-nose contact?**
 - Prevent contact between animals across boundary fences.
 - Do not graze boundary paddocks at the same time that the neighbour's animals are grazing the adjacent paddock, or create a barrier using double fencing or outrigger fences, or use other barriers such as hedgerows. The distance between fences should be at least 2 metres for adult stock.
- **Consider risk points that may break the security of this boundary fence:**
 - Roadside grazing
 - Road crossings
 - Effluent management
 - Raw milk going on/off farm (i.e. for pigs or calves)
 - Stock access to water that flows from a neighbouring or upstream property



Biosecurity awareness

- **Do all your staff know and understand the biosecurity precautions for your farm?**
 - Remember to call your veterinarian, or MPI, promptly if you see something unusual regarding animal health, or an unusual weed or pest. The MPI biosecurity number is **0800 80 99 66**.

