

Appendix 6.

NFAS Manual sample elements

Element LM 6 – Biosecurity

Who:	Feedlot manager
Where:	Feedlot
When:	At all times

Actions

To minimise the likelihood of a disease entering and spreading within the feedlot, the following actions are undertaken.

Staff training

1. Ensure all feedlot staff are aware of the potential for the introduction of diseases including emergency diseases as defined in the AUSVETPLAN.
2. Ensure all staff are familiar with and understand the mechanisms of the spread of disease including the potential introduction and spread of the disease by
 - livestock and feed commodities
 - visitors and employees
 - vehicles, equipment and machinery
 - feral animals and wildlife
 - manure and effluent.
3. All staff involved in the daily monitoring of livestock health are trained in the early detection of livestock diseases and are aware of their responsibilities under the Emergency Animal Disease Action Plan.

Access control

1. Movements of incoming and outgoing vehicles, machinery and equipment are controlled by marked roadways and signage.
2. All visitors to the feedlot must report to the office where their biosecurity risk is assessed and recorded prior to accessing the feedlot site.
3. High biosecurity risk visitors are not permitted access to animal or commodity/feed areas.
4. Moderate biosecurity risk visitors are only permitted access to animal and commodity/feed areas with the use of protective clothing.

Element LM 6 – Biosecurity (continued)

Access control (continued)

5. Visitors log must be maintained that includes the following information
 - Date
 - Time in
 - Name
 - Time out
 - Company
 - Contact number
 - Signature
 - Biosecurity risk assessment

Animal health

1. All animals are inspected on intake for illness and physical injuries and records maintained of the inspection.
2. Cattle are checked and observed daily for health and wellbeing and records of the inspection maintained.
3. Where a potential emergency disease outbreak is suspected, requirements of the Emergency Animal Disease (EAD) Action Plan are implemented as detailed in the contingency planning procedure.

Equipment and machinery

1. No machinery or equipment is to be routinely used for multiple activities such as handling stockfeed, manure or dead stock. Where required, all equipment and machinery shall be thoroughly washed down to remove all potential sources of cross contamination.

Dead stock management

1. Dead stock are disposed of in the manure stockpile which is located within the controlled drainage area. Disposal of dead stock is conducted as soon as possible to minimise odour generation.
2. Mortalities are only handled with equipment that is not used in feed processing.
3. Prior to burial, details of the dead animal are recorded including
 - Date
 - Lot number/owner
 - Individual number
 - Cause of death
 - All tags are removed (NLIS, management and feedlot).
4. A necropsy is conducted on all animals that have died at the feedlot. Consultation with the local vet is sought if there are any unfamiliar or suspicious signs surrounding the death.
5. The animal is placed in the manure stockpile and covered with a minimum of 0.6m of hay/sawdust and manure to aid in the decomposition of the animal and prevent odour generation and fly/vermin breeding. When an animal is placed in the manure stockpile, the location is marked for future reference.

Element LM 6 – Biosecurity (continued)

Dead stock management (continued)

6. The carcase is kept covered at all times and is left in the stockpile for 12 months. This allows for the total active composting plus curing.
7. In the event of mass mortalities at the feedlot, a burial pit would be constructed in accordance with the AUSVETPLAN Enterprise Manual – Feedlots.

Manure and effluent management

1. Pens are cleaned regularly at intervals of 13 weeks or less.
2. Pens are best cleaned when the manure is moist but not wet. However, they have to be cleaned regularly regardless of the manure moisture content. Pens are cleaned to maintain a maximum compacted manure depth of 100 mm over the pad.
3. Manure is first removed from under fence lines, around water troughs, shade posts and along and behind the aprons using a bobcat, under-fence pusher, slider blade or other equipment. Very wet manure is not harvested.
4. Manure is then scraped from the pen surface into a mound. If an interface layer is to be retained, great care is taken with depth control.
5. Pen cleaning activities are noted in the Environmental Data Record.
6. Generally the manure will be removed promptly either to the manure stockpiling/composting area or off-site.
7. Harvested manure can be stored prior to sale or spreading on designated areas.
8. Manure is only spread on the land areas specified on the state feedlot licence and in compliance with the requirements noted on the state feedlot licence.
9. Spread manure is incorporated where possible so that the impact on neighbours is minimal.
10. Effluent is only spread on the land areas specified on the state feedlot licence and in compliance with the requirements noted on the state feedlot licence.
11. Manure and effluent spreading activities are detailed in the Environmental Data Record.
12. Drains, the sedimentation trap and the ponds are cleaned and maintained as required.
13. Cleaning and maintenance activities are noted in the Environmental Data Record.

Spoilt feed management

1. All care is taken to minimise feed spillage during feed delivery.
2. Feed residues are removed from feed bunks on a daily basis to minimise odour generation and/or vermin breeding.
3. Spoilt or wet feed is removed from the bunks using a shovel or brush.
4. The material is either thrown into the pen area for removal during pen cleaning operations or is taken straight to the manure stockpiling/composting area.
5. Spoilt feed deposited in the manure stockpile area is subsequently mixed with the manure stored in stockpiles.

Element LM 6 – Biosecurity (continued)

References

Emergency Animal Disease (EAD) Action Plan

AUSVETPLAN

Beef cattle feedlots: Waste management and utilisation

Feedlot site layout

Feedlot visitor log

Biosecurity Risk Assessment

National Guidelines for Beef Cattle Feedlots in Australia (3rd Ed.)

AVA Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals – Cattle (2nd Ed.)

Animal Care Statement

NFAS and EUCAS Rules and Standards

Cattle Arrival Reports

Cattle Inspection Records

Cattle Treatment Records

Staff Training Records

Stockbook Program