



Integrity Systems

red meat customer assurance

A subsidiary of Meat & Livestock Australia

BIOSECURITY INFORMATION BULLETIN | JULY 2022
Protecting industry from biosecurity threats

How are you managing biosecurity risks?

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Ongoing threats from animal diseases highlight the importance of effective biosecurity planning, specifically through our red meat integrity systems for traceability and on-farm assurance. It is critical for livestock producers to understand their responsibilities, be vigilant and on the lookout.

This factsheet provides information about the important farm biosecurity practices livestock producers should have in place as a part of the Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) program, to help mitigate key biosecurity risks relating to animal health and disease.

Information and tools to enable livestock producers to mitigate key biosecurity risks relating to animal health and disease are available online.

Key actions

- ✓ Ensure your farm biosecurity management plan is up-to-date
- ✓ Keep accurate records
 - record all animal movements on the NLIS database
 - ensure NVDs/eNVDs are clear, complete and correct
 - maintain records of all animal treatments
 - record when livestock, people or machinery enter your property
- ✓ Stay alert regarding livestock standstills
- ✓ Regularly inspect livestock for ill health and disease and report any suspected infection on 1800 675 888

Ensure your farm biosecurity management plan is up-to-date.

Effective biosecurity practices address the identification and containment of disease outbreaks when they occur and detail the measures in place to prevent disease spread. All LPA-accredited producers need to have a farm biosecurity management plan. It is recommended to upload the biosecurity management plan to your LPA account.

Adhere to identification and traceability obligations.

Australian red meat customers expect our product to be fully traceable. As a livestock producer, you must guarantee that the animals you sell meet all traceability requirements. This includes adherence to National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) traceability obligations for livestock that are introduced and leave your property and accurate completion of LPA National Vendor Declarations (NVDs).

Maintain records of all animal treatments.

LPA accreditation is your pledge that the meat from your farm has been produced safely, ethically and meets biosecurity requirements – it means you stand by what you sell. When you tick the box on your LPA NVD, you are guaranteeing your on-farm practices meet LPA requirements, and ultimately customer expectations. Your tick must be backed up by accurate farm records.



Record when livestock, people or machinery enter your property.

A property owner is required to keep records, where reasonable and practicable, of visitor movements onto and around their property. This both reduces the risk of a disease or pest incursion occurring and strengthens the property owner's and authorities' ability to trace an outbreak's origin and contact visitors who may have been exposed to potential contamination on-farm. A property visitor register template is available to download from the ISC website.

Stay alert regarding livestock standstills.

In the event of a large-scale disease outbreak, your state department of primary industries may call for a livestock standstill, also known as a movement restriction, to prevent further disease spread through the value chain. This stop in transportation gives responders time to conduct investigations, trace infected animals and test for further contamination.

Understand the national response.

State and Federal governments are undertaking a range of activities to manage the biosecurity risks posed by LSD and FMD and are actively engaged with industry on prevention and planning. You can learn more about the clear and robust plan in place, known as the Australian Veterinary Emergency Plan (AUSVETPLAN) online.

Foot and mouth disease

FMD is a highly contagious disease that affects cattle, sheep, goats and pigs. FMD can spread through close contact between animals and can be carried on animal products or by the wind. The virus is excreted in breath, saliva, mucus, milk and faeces of affected animals. The disease causes foot lesions which leave animals lame and unable to walk to feed or water. In addition, tongue and mouth lesions can cause animals to drool and stop eating.

Anyone keeping or working with cattle, sheep, goats or pigs should be aware of the signs of FMD.

Lumpy skin disease

LSD is a viral disease of cattle and buffalo. The disease is spread primarily by biting insects such as certain species of flies, mosquitoes and ticks. The disease can also be spread by things such as contaminated equipment and in some cases directly from animal to animal. Infection typically causes an acute disease with fever, depression, and characteristic skin nodules. There may also be a marked reduction in milk yield as well as abortion in pregnant animals.

Anyone keeping or working with cattle or buffalo should be aware of the signs of LSD.

Integrity system resources

On-farm biosecurity measures
[integritysystems.com.au/
Biosecurity](https://integritysystems.com.au/Biosecurity)

Register for a NLIS account
nlis.com.au/Account/Create/

Create accurate LPA NVDs / eNVDs
integritysystems.com.au/nvd/

Traceability obligations
[integritysystems.com.au/on-farm-
assurance/livestock-movements/](https://integritysystems.com.au/on-farm-assurance/livestock-movements/)

Access free record keeping templates
[integritysystems.com.au/
recordkeeping](https://integritysystems.com.au/recordkeeping)

Read about AUSVETPLAN
[animalhealthaustralia.com.au/
ausvetplan](https://animalhealthaustralia.com.au/ausvetplan)

Know what to look for: FMD
bit.ly/3zBClyz

Know what to look for: LSD
bit.ly/3xeeW4t

Regularly inspect livestock for ill health and disease and report any suspected infection.

If you observe any unusual signs of disease in your livestock, or if you suspect FMD or LSD, immediately call the Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline on 1800 675 888 or your local veterinarian.



Australia's red meat industry cannot risk the entrance of infectious diseases or invasive pests and weeds. All members of the value chain, on and off property, have a responsibility to ensure diseases and other biosecurity risks are not spread to our livestock, so our products are safe for consumption, and we can stand by what we sell.

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