



BIOSECURITY STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE FOR ON-FARM VISITS

Farming Systems Groups

Minimising the risk of pest and disease incursion and spread is everyone's responsibility. One way to help safeguard on-farm biosecurity is to ensure that you "come clean, stay clean and go clean" when visiting farming properties.

It is common for farming systems groups to visit different farming properties to build on producer knowledge and provide producers with firsthand experience.

This document highlights the best practice procedures that farming systems groups should consider when planning, entering and leaving the property to minimise risks to a farm's biosecurity.

1. Planning the visit

- Contact the property owner to arrange the visit - discuss the purpose of visit and identify key areas of the property you may be entering. Ask about any biosecurity protocols they may have in place.
- Recognise the different zones of the property and their biosecurity risk rating – low-risk zones include high traffic areas e.g. driveways; medium-risk zones include areas where people or vehicles may require access to deliver inputs or pick up product e.g. sheds, silos or stockyards; high-risk zones are those that are used for production e.g. where crops are grown or stock are grazed.
 - » Consider whether you will remain in low risk zones (e.g. driveways) or will you be entering a high-risk production zone (e.g. a paddock). Ask the property owner if they are happy for you to enter their production zones.
- Ask the property owner where to park vehicles – it is preferable that any visitor vehicles are kept outside the production zone e.g. on a driveway or in a safe place on a roadside.
- Ask all those attending the farm visit to wear clean clothing and appropriate footwear. Footwear should be free of any built-up mud or contaminants to make disinfection upon arrival at the visit quick and easy.
- Ensure all vehicles used in the visit (including buses) are clean before arriving at the property – no built-up soil, especially in wheel arches and ute trays, and have clean foot wells/floor mats
- Make sure any tools or equipment you may require for the visit is clean and in good working order.



2. Entering the property

- Park in the allocated area OR choose a safe, clean area outside the production area.
 - » If you have been invited to take your vehicle into a production zone, ensure that your vehicle is clean, and tyres are disinfected.
- Ask whether the producer has a visitor log for you to sign. Facilitators should also keep a record of who attended the visit.
- Facilitators should set up a wash down area and prepare disinfectant boot wash (if there is not one provided by the property owner). Setting up wash down areas close to a tap or hose makes wash down procedures easier.
- Ensure all footwear is clean and disinfected, even if remaining in low-risk areas (see Figure 1 for details on boot washing procedure).
- Disinfect any tools and equipment before use.
- If anyone is handling livestock, it is recommended that they put on clean protective clothing such as coveralls.

TOP TIP!



Disinfectant – There are a number of commercial disinfectant products which you can purchase from your local rural reseller or you can use diluted bleach! Dilute bleach to 1% active sodium hypochlorite (the active ingredient in bleach) e.g. dilute a bleach solution which is 4% active sodium hypochlorite using three-parts water to one-part bleach. Consider using a spray bottle of either commercial or homemade disinfectant solution for easy on-the-go disinfection.

3. Leaving the property

- The same process is used for washing boots when leaving the property as when you arrived at the property (Figure 1).
- Remove protective clothing and place in a designated bag for used clothing.
- Wash and disinfect hands.
- Carefully dispose of dirty water.

BOOT WASH PROCEDURE



Remove excess foreign material from the sole of your boots away from the production zone and washing area - you may do this by banging boots together or using a tool to scrape out the boot tread.



Wash boots/footwear in a bucket filled with water and use a scrubbing brush if required to remove all excess foreign material. Clean any tools or equipment in the same bucket of water.



Finally, rinse clean boots/footwear and tools in a separate bucket of disinfectant or use a spray bottle containing disinfectant.



Carefully and mindfully dispose of dirty water and waste disinfectant.

The South Australian Biosecurity Extension Project has been made possible by PIRSA's Red Meat and Wool Growth Program and Animal Health Australia through the National Sheep Industry Biosecurity Strategy 2019-2024