



BIOSECURITY STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE FOR ON-FARM VISITS

Livestock Agents, Wool Buyers and Brokers, Consultants and Contractors

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.

As livestock agents, wool buyers and brokers, consultants and contractors, you frequently visit different farming properties to provide a service or consult with your clients. Travelling between properties increases the risk of carrying pests, weeds and disease around with you. Ensuring that you and your vehicle/equipment arrive and leave the property clean can help minimise the risk of spreading unwanted pathogens from farm to farm.

Below are the best practice procedures that service providers should consider when planning to visit, entering and leaving the property.

1. Planning the visit

- If you are unfamiliar with the property or the biosecurity protocols in place, contact the property owner to discuss their expectations of visitors during their visit.
- 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. Consider if it is necessary for you to take your own vehicle into the production zone – is it possible to be driven around by the property owner?
- In many instances it is necessary to take your own machinery or vehicle. If this is the case, ensure all machinery and vehicles 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 need for the visit are clean and, to limit the number of times you are leaving and entering the property, make sure they are in ready supply.
- Ensure you wear clean clothing and footwear.

2. Entering the property

- Park in the designated area OR choose a safe, clean area outside of the high-risk production zone.
 - » If you have been given permission to take your vehicle into a production zone, ensure that your vehicle/machinery is clean, and tyres are disinfected.
- Ask whether the producer has a visitor log for you to sign.
- Ensure your boots are clean and disinfected even if remaining in low-risk areas (see Figure 1 for details on boot washing procedure).
 - » Consider whether you need to have a pair of “travel” shoes which you change into when travelling between properties and keep a clean and disinfected pair of boots ready for farm visits.
- Disinfect any tools and equipment (e.g. footrot shears) before use.
- If you are handling livestock, ensure you put on clean, appropriate 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 keeping a spray bottle of either commercial or homemade disinfectant solution in your vehicle for easy on-the-road 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.

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.

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