Biosecurity Farm Plan

Protecting your business from pests and diseases.

Use this template to create your own farm biosecurity plan and strengthen preparedness for potential threats.

Good biosecurity protects the health of your stock, family, farm team and visitors. Make sure all biosecurity threats are identified, contained and reported.

While pest plants, insects and diseases are spread by natural means such as birds, wind and water, farming practices and other human activities are also significant contributors. The best policy for farmers, the region and the country, is to prevent these pests and diseases entering in the first place. If they do enter, the next best outcome is preventing further spread.

You can reduce the risk by taking steps to manage the movement of people, vehicles, machinery, stock, feed and seeds as they pass through the farm gate.

Biosecurity protocol can be divided into three stages. Firstly, and most importantly, there are conversations to have before anyone enters the farm. The next stage covers biosecurity requirements on entry to the farm and during the visit. Finally, there are practices to prevent pests and diseases from leaving the farm and affecting others. Use this plan alongside our Visitor Management Plan to help ensure your whole farm is protected.

Biosecurity Process

6 Key actions to establish a Biosecurity Plan:

1. Understand the risks
2. Create a management plan for existing risks
3. Develop moving protocols
4. Create induction checklists
5. Implement required infrastructure
6. Develop biosecurity plans

Key Protection Areas

- Animal Health & Welfare - Vaccination, quarantine, and health monitoring protocols
- People - Employee education and standard operating procedures
- Emergency Response - Outbreak preparedness and communication plans
- Feed & Water Security - Storage, testing, and contamination prevention measures
- Access Control - Visitor management and vehicle sanitation procedures

Get your DairyNZ Biosecurity Visitor Management Plan at dairynz.co.nz/visitor-biosecurity

*For unusual plants, insects or pests - catch it, snap it and report it to the **MPI hotline 0800 80 99 66***

Is your farm protected?

- Consider the disease status of new stock before buying or moving animals.
- Ensure visitors arrive clean onto your farm and provide facilities for them to clean and disinfect on arrival and departure.
- Secure boundary fences to prevent nose-to-nose contact with neighbouring stock.
- Protect younger animals by allowing only essential people into calf sheds.
- Prevent and identify potential weeds and pasture pests. Check with your regional council and AgPest for advice. Make sure any brought-in feed does not contain new seeds or weeds.
- Control animal pests. Keep buildings clean, mow long grass around them and store feed securely.
- Include a farm map with all entry/exit points, boundary fences, disinfecting facilities, quarantine areas, wash down areas, no-go (red) zones and locations of plant risks (e.g. pest plants like Chilean needle grass).
- Biosecurity signs should be visible and easy to follow. Include relevant contact details for visitors. Get your visitor sign at **dairynz.co.nz/visitor-sign.**

Is your farm environment protected?

People, animals and land are farmers most valuable assets. Take control by reviewing your farm system in general. Identify the risk pathways, specific to your farm, that biosecurity threats can enter. A risk pathway is a way infection or disease can reach your farm and livestock or spread from your property.

Step 1: Define the farm boundary or 'bubble' and ensure you have an up-to-date farm map available.

Step 2: Identify established entry pathways into the property/bubble (e.g. vehicle/stock gateways) and mark these on the map.

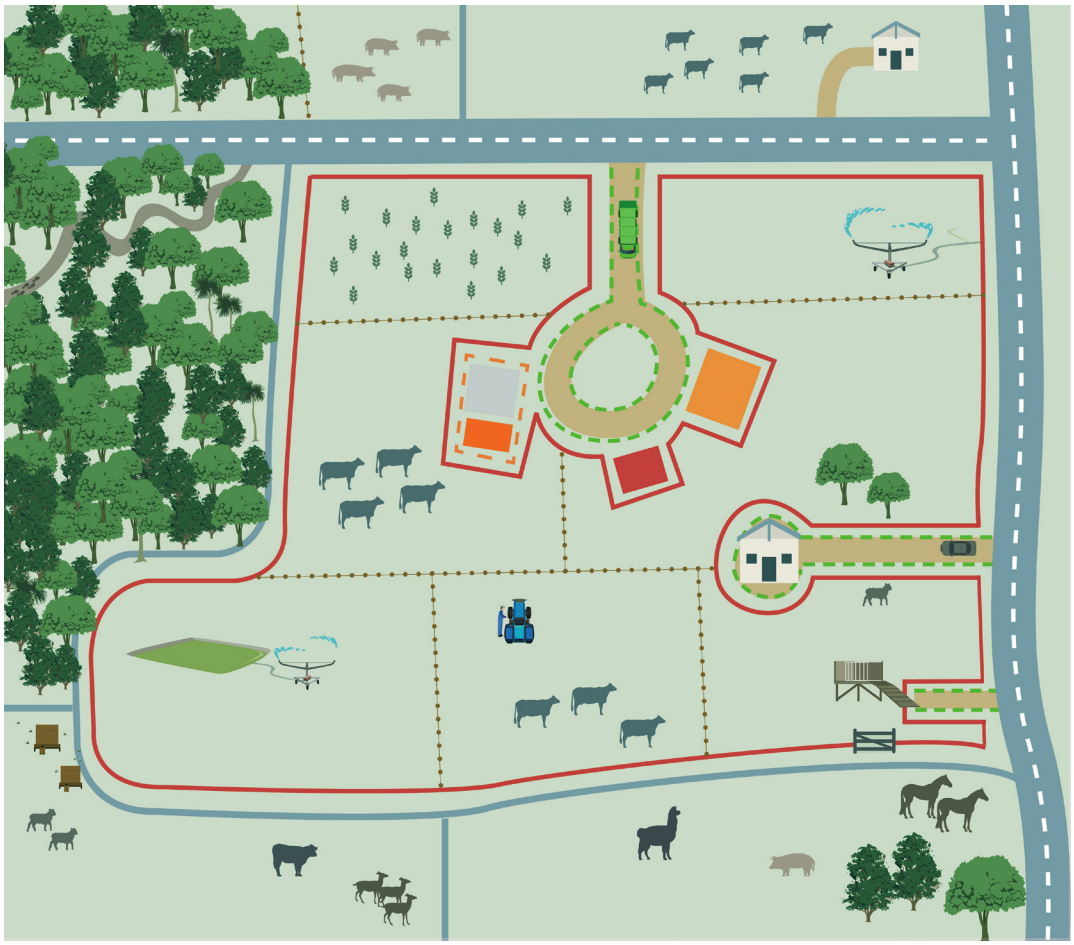
Step 3: Identify alternative pathways – (e.g. boundary fences with neighbouring stock, waterways, forestry or vectors such as possums) and add these to the map.

Step 4: Identify 'clean and dirty zones' - consider using a traffic light system (high risk = red, low risk = green).

1. Look at your farm map

2. Assess the risk pathways

3. Put a plan in place to manage the risks



Are your animals protected?

Any animals that come onto your farm are a potential source of disease for your herd, and in some instances, your people. Sending animals away for grazing could also expose them to diseases and weeds not currently on your farm.

If you spot anything unusual with your herd - call your vet for advice.

- Use a pre-purchase checklist when buying stock. Get yours at **dairynz.co.nz/purchase-checklist.**
- Ensure animals are tagged and registered in NAIT and information is up to date.
- Register your PICA and record all movements within 48 hrs.
- Prepare your animals for transport – consider whether quarantine measures are required.
- Keep newly arrived animals separate for at least 7 days.
- Make sure your Animal Health Plan is up to date - arrange this with your vet.
- Ensure accurate documentation for animals arriving and leaving the farm.
- Separate sick animals from the rest of the mob and maintain records of all health treatments.
- Take steps to prevent contact between your stock and other stock during transit.
- Check dogs are fully vaccinated (e.g. kennel cough, Lepto, Parvo etc) and dosing is current (worms, sheep measles).

Are your people protected?

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 and people, as some diseases are spread by nose-to-nose contact between animals and contact with humans.

If you or your staff have cold or flu symptoms, stay home and call your doctor or **Healthline on 0800 358 5453** for advice.

- Provide a dedicated entrance(s) onto the property (the fewer the better) for visitors.
- Provide clear guidance on how to sign-in /scan in and sign out/scan out.
- Provide cleaning and disinfection equipment for people and gear before going on farm.
- Identify your dirty and clean zones, and how they will be managed (e.g. no visitors in dirty zones such as stock yards).
- Ensure staff understand and follow the biosecurity precautions for your farm.
- Display biosecurity signs with clear instructions and contact details at all vehicle access points to inform visitors of your biosecurity status and processes.
- Clearly identify entry, cleaning and restricted areas with signage and on your biosecurity map.
- Complete combined health and safety and biosecurity induction conversations with visitors and contractors at the appropriate time.
- Advise visitors and contractors of any farm activities on the day that may pose a risk.
- Develop your own Visitor Management Plan here: **dairynz.co.nz/visitor-management**

Emergency Management

A clear emergency response plan will ensure you can act quickly and effectively when biosecurity threats arise, minimising damage to your operation and protecting the wider agricultural community.

- Create a quick-reference contact list including your veterinarian, local animal health officials, regulatory agencies, and 24/7 emergency numbers. Post multiple copies in key locations like the farm office, dairy shed, and feed storage areas.
- Define roles for each team member during an outbreak situation.
- Develop a communication tree that includes notifying your milk processor, neighbouring farms, farm employees, and family members.
- Develop protocols to protect farm staff and family members, including the use of personal protective equipment when handling sick animals.
- Maintain an emergency supply kit including disinfectants, protective equipment, sampling materials, and basic medical supplies.
- Include your insurance company's contact details and outline procedures for documenting losses.

Is your Feed protected?

Protecting feed is crucial for farm biosecurity. Contaminated feed can be a major pathway for introducing diseases, pests, and pathogens. Simple steps like proper storage, regular quality checks, sourcing from reputable suppliers, and preventing wildlife access to feed can significantly reduce these risks and strengthen overall biosecurity.

- Check that seeds used for re-grassing and cropping are registered and certified.
- Inspect pastures (including roadsides) for pest weeds, and check purchased stock feed for evidence of pests, damage and contaminants.
- Source feed from reputable suppliers who maintain good animal health and biosecurity records.
- Store stock feed to prevent contamination from livestock, vermin, feral and domestic animals, and fungal toxins.
- Use appropriate protective gear in the handling of supplies (dust, moulds, gloves).
- Ensure hay and silage are of high quality and were harvested early, before weeds are set and seeds become viable.

For more information about biosecurity on-farm, visit **dairynz.co.nz/visitor-biosecurity**