

# On farm biosecurity planning tips



With the current risk of foot-and-mouth disease and lumpy skin disease, **now is the time** to review your farm biosecurity plan to ensure you are protecting your property, neighbours and industry.

This factsheet covers a number of key on farm biosecurity tips.

## 1. Know the signs of disease

Make sure you and all those on your property can recognise foot-and-mouth disease and lumpy skin disease.

Both foot-and-mouth disease and lumpy skin disease are emergency animal diseases.

This means an animal showing suspect signs of either disease must be reported to your local private veterinarian, a Local Land Services District Veterinarian or the Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline (1800 675 888).

Look up your local District Vet on the Local Land Services website: [www.lls.nsw.gov.au/vet](http://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/vet)

Display these numbers somewhere prominent on your property (eg in your office or yards) and make sure they are saved in everybody's phone.

### Identifying foot-and-mouth disease

Foot-and-mouth disease affects cloven-hoofed animals. Signs include:

- Blisters on the mouth, snout, tongue, lips and/or feet
- Erosions remaining after blisters rupture
- Drooling
- Fever
- Limping and reluctance to move
- Loss of production.

For more information and images of foot-and-mouth disease symptoms visit [www.lls.nsw.gov.au/fmd](http://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/fmd)

Above: Foot-and-mouth disease - blisters on feet



Foot-and-mouth disease - blisters on mouth.



Foot-and-mouth disease - drooling.

## Identifying lumpy skin disease

Lumpy skin disease affects cattle and water buffalo. Signs include:

- Skin nodules and death
- Nasal and eye discharge
- Enlarged lymph nodes
- Drop in milk production
- Fever
- Loss of body condition
- Fertility issues and abortion.

For more information and images of lumpy skin disease symptoms visit [www.lls.nsw.gov.au/fmd](http://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/fmd)

## 2. Reduce the threat by reducing vectors

There are several vectors that spread foot-and-mouth disease and/or lumpy skin disease.

Make sure your farm biosecurity plan identifies these potential pathways and that you have adequate mitigation methods in place to protect your farm.

High-risk vectors can be transferred by:

- Feeding prohibited food to pigs (swill) [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/pigs/pig-nutrition/swill-feeding](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/pigs/pig-nutrition/swill-feeding)
- Biting insects such as mosquitoes, ticks and biting flies – learn how to reduce their breeding sites [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/animal/info-vets/lumpy-skin-disease](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/animal/info-vets/lumpy-skin-disease)
- Feral animals – contact your Local Land Services biosecurity team for more information on pest management programs in your community. The website is [www.lls.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lls.nsw.gov.au) or call 1300 795 299.



Lumpy skin disease - skin nodules.



Lumpy skin disease - skin nodules.



Lumpy skin disease - nasal and eye discharge.

## 3. Farm hygiene and husbandry practices

Come clean-go clean! This is imperative for vehicles, footwear, equipment and machinery.

Many diseases can be carried onto your property via dirt, manure, or grass. To determine if your current farm biosecurity plan hygiene practices are up to date see the AUSVETPlan Decontamination Manual for the latest information on decontamination procedures and recommended disinfectants.

Consider people coming onto your farm as well. Have they been on other farms recently? Refer to Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry for the latest advice to overseas travellers ([www.agriculture.gov.au](http://www.agriculture.gov.au)).

Farms in NSW can implement a Biosecurity Management Plan to provide extra protection against biosecurity risks caused by unlawful entry.

Ensure all of your staff and family are trained in husbandry, management and disease recognition.



## 4. New/returning stock

Ensure that your farm biosecurity plan sets quarantine periods for new stock, and your own stock returning (ie from agricultural shows, agistment, etc).

The minimum quarantine period recommended for foot-and-mouth disease is 15 days, and 17 days for lumpy skin disease.

When purchasing in livestock always request an Animal Health Declaration (AHD) with your national vendor declaration. Free downloadable copies of all AHDs can be found on the Farm Biosecurity website ([www.farmbiosecurity.com.au](http://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au)).

And remember; all livestock that are moved onto your property need to be transferred on the national livestock identification system (NLIS) database onto your property identification code (PIC) within two days.

For more information for stock movements go to: [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/nlis](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/nlis)

## 5. Training and record keeping

Animal Health Australia (AHA) has several online emergency animal disease training courses available for all producers.

The Emergency Animal Disease Foundation Course outlines how a response would be managed in Australia and gives you a great overview.

The Foot-And-Mouth Disease Awareness - Protecting your Livelihood and Community Course emphasises everyone's role in preventing, reporting and responding to foot-and-mouth disease.

For more information and to register please visit the AHA website ([www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au](http://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au)).

Remember it's important to keep training records.

## 6. Plan for emergencies

Use the knowledge gained through the AHA emergency animal disease training, NSW DPI and Local Land Services websites.

Prepare for an emergency animal disease event on your farm, in the region or in the country.

Visit the Farm Biosecurity website to review or create your plan using their toolkit:

[www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/toolkit/update-your-farm-biosecurity-profile](http://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/toolkit/update-your-farm-biosecurity-profile)

Practice makes perfect, and you'll be surprised how many things you learn through this process.

## 7. Help us to help you!

If you have cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, bison, buffalo, deer, camelids, equines (ie horses and donkeys) and poultry (100 or more), you need to register for a PIC.

Please submit your annual land and stock return by 31 August every year (even if you don't have any animals).

For more information go to the Local Land Services website ([www.lls.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lls.nsw.gov.au)).

## 8. Feeling overwhelmed?

Local Land Services has gathered some of the best resources available into one website - [www.lls.nsw.gov.au/ead](http://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/ead)

It also includes contact details to help you find your local District Veterinarian.

Visit [www.farmbiosecurity.com.au](http://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au) if you don't have a farm biosecurity plan or need more information on how to upscale your current plan.



Scan the QR code to visit the Local Land Services website for resources.



[www.lls.nsw.gov.au/ead](http://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/ead)