

Farm biosecurity and machinery hygiene

Frequently asked questions

What is farm biosecurity?

Farm biosecurity is a set of measures designed to protect a property from the entry and spread of pests and diseases. It is the responsibility of the landowner, and every person who is visiting or working on a property. Farm biosecurity is essential to stop the spread of pests that can damage our agricultural production industries and our environment.

Why is vehicle and machinery hygiene important?

Vehicles, machinery and equipment are one of the main pathways by which pests can spread to new properties or areas. *Any plant or soil contamination has the potential to harbour pests or weeds.* Many pests only occupy a fraction of their potential range. Moving pests to new places – even if unintentionally – will make a bad situation worse.



When should I clean machinery?

Vehicles, machinery and equipment should be checked and cleaned any time there is movement between properties, or between infested and clear areas of the same property. A basic standard of hygiene should apply for all machinery movements, with stricter requirements put in place for properties with known infestations of pest plants such as Chilean needle grass.

How and where should I clean machinery?

Machinery and equipment should be clean when it enters a new property. Ideally, machinery wash down should occur on the property prior to movement so that any pests picked up on that property are contained there. Work with the occupier to agree on a suitable wash down site. Cleaning can be by any one of a combination of:

- Physical removal
- Pressure water
- Pressure air
- Vacuum cleaning
- Disinfection

For general cleaning procedures the following guidelines apply:

- ✓ No clods of dirt or loose soil should be present after washdown
- ✓ Radiator, grills and the interior of vehicles should be free of accumulations of seed and other plant material
- ✓ Check machinery, inside and out, for where dirt and plant material may become lodged. Pay attention to awkward places such as the underside, radiators, between dual wheels, spare tyres, hollow sections, foot wells and bumper bars

Where can I get more information?

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