

# GOOD BIOSECURITY PRACTICES FOR FARMERS AND LIFESTYLE FARMERS

Whether you own a large rural property with livestock or you're a small scale lifestyle farmer, the risk of exotic diseases affects you and your animals.

New Zealand is free of many animal diseases that occur overseas, but these still could pose a major threat to your livestock, your livelihood and industry should they enter the country. There are a number of things that can be done to reduce the risk of introducing diseases onto your property.

These straight forward, common sense steps will help you protect your own animals against diseases and reduce the likelihood of widespread outbreaks.



SHEEP

## What you can do to reduce the risk of exotic disease on your property

- Know the signs of exotic disease and immediately report suspicious signs to the MAFBNZ Exotic Pest and Disease hotline on 0800 80 99 66.
- If you suspect a disease, isolate sick animals from other animals.
- Isolate new animals and ensure they are healthy before introducing them to your flock or herd.
- Always wash your hands with soap and hot water, and clothes and footwear with disinfectant if dealing with animals you suspect are unwell. Do not visit your neighbour's property until the cause of illness of your animals has been determined – this limits its chance of spread.
- It is illegal to feed food waste to pigs that contains meat (or has been in contact with meat) unless it has been cooked to 100 degrees celsius throughout for one hour (for example by boiling).

## Know the signs of disease

You know your animals and will know when to be concerned. Remain vigilant and inspect your animals regularly. Common signs to look out for include:

- sudden and unexplained deaths;
- rapid spread of disease;
- sores and ulcers;
- excessive dribbling from the mouth;
- diarrhoea especially with blood;



PIGS



TURKEYS

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- non-responsive animals;
- loss of appetite;
- dramatic decreases in production such as milk from cows;
- staggering or head drooping;
- severe lameness, and
- inability to rise.

## Pandemic (H1N1) Influenza in livestock

While disease due to this influenza has not yet been reported in New Zealand animals, humans have infected both pigs and turkeys overseas. Reports suggest that pandemic influenza signs include:

- Respiratory disease in pigs and turkeys (coughing, sneezing, fever).
- Drop in egg production.

## You know your animals best

It is important to involve your veterinarian if you see anything of concern in your animals or anything else out of the ordinary. If several of your animals display unusual disease signs, abnormal behaviour or unexpected deaths, report it immediately to the MAFBNZ Exotic Pest and Disease hotline on 0800 80 99 66.

Ensure your animals are well watered, fed and have access to shelter. More information about animal welfare requirements is available at <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/regs/animal-welfare>.

For biosecurity information about how to keep birds/poultry safe and healthy visit <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/pests-diseases/animals/avian-influenza>.

If you do own pigs or poultry upload your property details at [http://www.asurequality.com/corporate/it\\_services/agribase.cfm](http://www.asurequality.com/corporate/it_services/agribase.cfm). This information could help us in future emergency management planning.



ROOSTER



CHICKENS

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