



Livestock Biosecurity Network

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Established by industry funds

The Livestock Biosecurity Network was established nationally in 2013 by the peak industry councils: Sheepmeat Council of Australia, Cattle Council of Australia and Wool Producers Australia.

The councils pooled \$5 million to fund the initiative for an initial three years using producer transaction levies, in response to industry concerns about the possible impact of diseases and pests on the farming economy.

LBN has Regional Officers working in all states and territories, where they are building networks of public/private partnerships.

This will facilitate the delivery of information about the biosecurity threat to sustainable farming and livestock health and welfare.

The network is designed to support all jurisdictions by enhancing regional industry capability in the event of an Emergency Animal Disease (EAD) outbreak from exotic or endemic diseases.

Strategic goals

- Build a network of public/private partnerships to assist with the delivery of information about biosecurity risk to animal health and welfare.
- Support jurisdictions to enhance industry capability in the event of an emergency animal disease (EAD) incursion.
- Work with partners and stakeholders to identify, and where necessary, update extension material for on-farm animal health, welfare and biosecurity for dissemination within the cattle and sheep industries.



LBN's Regional Officers have long-standing experience and expertise in the sheep and cattle sectors. Most also have professional veterinarians qualifications and have worked in Australia and overseas on programs about invasive diseases, pests and plants.

They are actively encouraging industry-wide networks to participate in establishing biosecurity programs for livestock producers.

This includes the adoption of good animal welfare practices as a buffer to the spread of infectious diseases or harmful pests, and all the veterinary, husbandry and management actions and decisions for ensuring healthy and well-cared for animals.

The Regional Officers work closely with existing farming networks, raising awareness of biosecurity risk and the need to be prepared for possible outbreaks of exotic or endemic diseases and harmful pests. This includes on-farm biosecurity plans.

They are disseminating timely information about biosecurity risk and animal health and welfare for livestock producers and farming communities.

Livestock producers and farming organisations are invited to contact our Regional Officers in all states and territories (see over).

EARLY DETECTION IS CRITICAL

An outbreak of foot and mouth in Australia would cost the Australian economy between \$5 billion and \$52 billion depending on how quickly it was detected and contained.

Most of these costs would be borne by producers.

Australia's geographical isolation and maritime borders have left it relatively unscathed from the major pandemic diseases of livestock. Our disease-free status allows us relatively free access to most export markets.

However, with the accessibility of international travel the world is shrinking and the outbreak of a major exotic disease in livestock is now no longer 'if it occurs' but 'when it occurs'.

Most on-farm biosecurity practices are free or very cheap to implement, but they have ongoing payoff and returns, reducing your chances of introducing important economic diseases, like Ovine Johne's disease, footrot, lice, multiresistant worms in sheep and Bovine Johne's disease (BJD) and Pestivirus in cattle.

The livestock industry must be prepared to act quickly and decisively in the event of an incursion.

Early detection of disease is critical to its control and those most likely to detect an exotic or endemic disease already work with livestock on a regular basis.

EMERGENCY ANIMAL DISEASE HOTLINE

The signs can be vague and subtle or spectacular. It's not up to the livestock producer to decide if they have an exotic disease in their herd or flock, or not.

The bottom line is: if you see something suspicious, call the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline 1800 675 888.

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