



## TOP 5 BIOSECURITY TIPS FOR SMALL LIVESTOCK FARMS

### On-farm Biosecurity

Biosecurity on your farm involves all the activities and practices you undertake to minimise the impacts of animal diseases, pests and weeds. How you approach your on-farm biosecurity can make a difference to the overall profitability of your enterprise. Responding to diseases, pests and weeds ultimately costs money, so investment in keeping your farm free of these problems can help improve productivity and profitability.

### Top 5 tips for your farm

#### 1. Know the risks, rules and requirements

- » Stay up-to-date with the rules and regulations for keeping livestock through your state Department of Agriculture or Primary Industries
- » Be familiar with animal disease, pest and weed risks in your area
- » Be aware of what you can and cannot feed to livestock

#### 2. Have a plan!

- » A biosecurity plan can help you to prioritise, manage and mitigate risks on your farm and reduce costs in responding to a disease, pest or weed outbreak.
- » Coordinate with your neighbours on feral animal, pest and weed control plans
- » Pre-planning for emergency events such as natural disasters can speed recovery after the event

#### 3. Keep records

- » Compulsory records such as those for livestock movements and records such as animal treatments, on-farm chemical usage and vendor declarations, are vital to producing safe and traceable food.
- » Ask for an animal health certificate when you purchase in new livestock

#### 4. Control and patrol

- » Aim for one signed entry point onto your farm to control visitor entry
- » Keep a visitor register
- » Quarantine new livestock to your farm
- » Undertake frequent monitoring of your livestock and their environment

#### 5. Spot something unusual? Report immediately

- » If you notice unusual clinical signs of disease in your livestock such as lameness, sudden deaths, diarrhoea, salivation or nasal discharge contact a veterinarian or animal health authority for advice immediately

### Priority areas for on-farm biosecurity

1. Livestock sales, purchases and movements
2. People, vehicles and equipment
3. Feed and Water
4. Feral animals, pests and weeds
5. Animal health management
6. Carcass, effluent and waste management
7. Staff training
8. Planning, recording and monitoring

