BIOSECURITY

Livestock Production Assurance

The Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) program is the Australian livestock industry's on-farm assurance program covering food safety, animal welfare and biosecurity.

It is part of the integrity system used by the red meat industry to meet the stringent requirements of our domestic and export markets. Customer confidence in Australian red meat underpins the success and growth of Australia's livestock industry, and protects the livelihoods of more than 180,000 producers.

When producers become LPA-accredited, they are promising to meet LPA's requirements and fulfil their responsibility in the production of safe and ethical red meat. Managing **biosecurity** is just one of seven elements that producers need to satisfy in order to become LPA-accredited.

Every LPA-accredited producer should ensure biosecurity requirements are fulfilled both on-farm and during the transport of livestock between properties and feedlots, including to slaughter and live export.

What?

You are required to develop a Farm Biosecurity Management Plan and encouraged as part of this plan to keep records of livestock, vehicle and visitor movements onto and around your property, where reasonable and practical. Templates to assist you with your record keeping are available on the ISC website at **www. integritysystems.com.au/recordkeeping/**.

Along with LPA's other six requirements, biosecurity practices are reviewed as part of the LPA audit.

Why?

On-farm biosecurity systems have been implemented to minimise both the risk of infectious diseases being introduced to livestock production properties and the subsequent spread of any such diseases.

Integrating biosecurity requirements into LPA strengthens the promise made to our customers, protects our industry and environment, and streamlines the process of record-keeping and reporting for livestock producers.

Ensuring your livestock are, and remain, free of serious infectious diseases allows you to maximise farm productivity and minimise animal discomfort, stock losses and medical treatment costs.

When?

From 1 October 2017 all Australian red meat producers are required to have a Farm Biosecurity Management Plan in place and implement best-practice biosecurity practices in their on-farm management as a requirement of LPA.

Whether your existing biosecurity practices meet the LPA requirements depends on the nature of your current situation. You are encouraged to review the LPA Biosecurity Standards and complete LPA Learning (**www.integritysystems. com.au/biosecurity**) to ensure you understand the biosecurity requirements within the LPA program and what you need to do on farm.

How?

As a minimum, each Property Identification Code (PIC) must have a documented Farm Biosecurity Management Plan that addresses each of the following points:

(a) Manage and record the introduction and movement of livestock in a way that minimises the risk of introducing and/or spreading infectious diseases

(b) Where reasonable and practical, control people, equipment and vehicles entering the property, thus minimising the potential for property contamination and, if possible, keep a record of such movements

(c) Prevent and control animal diseases on-farm by regularly monitoring and managing livestock.

LPA REQUIREMENTS

#1   PROPERTY RISK ASSESSMENT

#2   SAFE & RESPONSIBLE ANIMAL TREATMENTS

#3   STOCK FOODS, FODDER CROPS, GRAIN AND PASTURE TREATMENTS

#4   PREPARATION FOR DISPATCH

#5   LIVESTOCK TRANSACTIONS & MOVEMENTS

#6   BIOSECURITY

#7   ANIMAL WELFARE

Checklist:

1. *Does your PIC have a documented Farm Biosecurity Plan?*

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure

Please develop your plan in accordance with LPA's guidelines and maintain it as part of your obligation to LPA.

2. *Do all livestock movements onto the PIC have a known health status – that is, are livestock coming onto your property accompanied by a Livestock Health Statement/ Declaration or equivalent?*

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure

It is recommended that you allow animals onto your property only if their full health history is known and can be provided as a formal document.
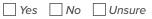
3. *Are all introduced livestock inspected for signs of ill health or disease on arrival at the property and kept in isolation for a minimum period of time?*

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure

Livestock entering your property should be screened to ensure they are in good health before being allowed into contact with existing animals. Any that show symptoms of illness or disease must be quarantined until they no longer pose a threat of infection to the rest of your herd or flock.

4. *Are livestock inspected regularly for ill health and/or disease, and is appropriate action undertaken in response where necessary?*
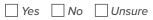
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure

Livestock should be inspected and any animal displaying signs of ill health or disease should be placed in isolation and treated appropriately. It is recommended you become familiar with the signs and symptoms of diseases to be able to identify issues quickly.

5. *Is the risk of livestock straying onto or away from the property minimised?*

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure

Your boundary fences should be maintained in good condition and external gates kept closed to ensure livestock from neighbouring properties cannot enter your property and that your own livestock are kept securely contained.

6. *Are systems in place to ensure a veterinary practitioner or animal health officer is notified if an unusual disease, illness or mortality is observed?*

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure

If you observe any signs of disease, illness or mortality that are not usual on your property, you should notify your local veterinarian or animal health officer immediately. Make sure you stay up to date with animal health warnings and bulletins issued by your state or territory department of agriculture/primary industries and other relevant organisations and authorities.

7. *Where reasonable and practical, are the movements of people, vehicles and equipment entering your property controlled and, where possible, recorded?*
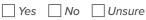
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure

Consider displaying biosecurity advisory signs on your boundary fences and/or on your front gate asking visitors to ask permission and take care when entering your property.

Where possible, ensure workers and people visiting your PIC have not been in recent contact with potentially infectious animals (either within Australia or overseas) before arriving.

Keep vehicles and equipment clean and free of animals' bodily fluids which may carry disease and ensure treatment devices such as syringes and drench guns are disinfected thoroughly after use and are not shared with neighbours.

Where reasonable and practical, keep written, dated records detailing all people, vehicles and equipment entering your property so that all movements can be easily traced.

8. *Do you maintain any other procedures or practices that contribute to minimising the risk and/or spread of disease?*

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure

You may choose to take additional steps to help reduce the risk of disease entering, spreading around, or spreading from your property. Document these as part of your Farm Biosecurity Plan.

Learn more

A dedicated module within LPA Learning explains what you need to know regarding LPA's requirements for biosecurity. Information is also provided on the ISC website (**www.integritysystems.com.au/biosecurity**).

See also Animal Health Australia's website (**www.farmbiosecurity.com.au**).