

## Spotting the Risk to Sheep & Goats

The introduction of an infectious animal disease could devastate Australia's wool, sheepmeat and goat industries with serious consequences for long term sustainability and continued market access. You can play a part in minimising the risk by adopting sound biosecurity practices around your farm. Consider the following commonsense steps...

### Reduce the Risk of Introducing an Infectious Disease

#### Introduced stock



- Purchase stock from reputable and biosecurity-conscious suppliers.
- Make every effort to assess the health status of incoming stock, including closely examining the stock yourself for signs of disease. Only purchase stock from flocks with the same or a higher health status than your own flock.
- Insist on a vendor's declaration as to the health status and treatment history of the stock.
- Treat incoming sheep/goats with appropriate parasite drenches and vaccinations and hold the stock for a period of no less than 24 hours upon receipt to allow them to empty out in the yards.
- Ensure an adequate record of all stock transactions is kept up to date and maintained.
- Do not mix incoming stock with other stock for a seven day on farm surveillance period.
- It is important to be wary of increased risk associated with diseases such as footrot and Johne's disease and hence an associated requirement for extended on farm surveillance periods.

#### Vehicle and people movements

- Be aware of the potential for property contamination from visitors and their vehicles, including veterinarians, other producers, stock and station agents, shearers, shooters and fishermen.
- Where possible, limit unnecessary movement of people and non-property owned vehicles, encourage the use of protective clothing and ensure routine cleaning of visitors' boots and hands.



#### Stockfeed

- Be aware that tallow is the only animal product which may be legally fed to stock.
- Ensure no contamination of stockfeed by livestock, vermin, feral and domestic animals.
- Source stockfeed from manufacturers who operate under a quality assurance program that has a biosecurity component.



#### Boundaries

- Ensure boundary and internal fences are adequate and maintained to prevent movement of livestock.

#### Feral animals and wildlife

- Act upon incidences of feral animal activity around dead stock.
- Coordinate action against ferals with neighbours to maximise effectiveness.
- Be aware of rubbish dumps that may attract feral and wild animals onto the property.



### Reduce the Risk of a Disease Spreading on Farm



#### Regularly monitor and investigate animal illness and death

- Report cases of unusual sickness or death to a vet or a government officer for further investigation.
- Remove and isolate sick animals from the remainder of the flock.
- Where possible, record the number of stock deaths to allow easy reporting of significant increases in mortality.

#### Maintain good animal health practices

- Establish and maintain a flock health plan (vaccination, worming, fly control) with your veterinary adviser.
- Ensure a good level of proficiency of operators carrying out the components of this plan.



- Ensure a health plan is also in place for farm dogs and horses and monitor these animals for illness.

#### Ensure appropriate disposal of carcasses

- Where possible, dispose of carcasses in a segregated area, taking into account environmental and public considerations.