



**Australian Alpaca**  
A S S O C I A T I O N

## **Alpaca Industry Biosecurity Plan**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

In a broad sense, biosecurity is a set of measures designed to protect a population from transmissible infectious agents at a national, regional and individual farm level. At the farm level it involves the systematic approach of livestock owners on an industry wide basis in providing protection to their flocks and herds against the entry and spread of diseases.

Biosecurity is therefore about managing risk to prevent the introduction of diseases to an enterprise and to prevent the spread of disease between farms or to a disease free area. Farmers practising preventative biosecurity measures will be implementing emergency disease preparedness. The application of preventative biosecurity measures will also limit the impact of endemic diseases so their application makes sense from economic, social and animal welfare perspectives.

The ability of an industry to withstand an outbreak of an emergency disease and the sum total cost of its control will be influenced by each individual farmer's biosecurity plan and its effective operation.

The Government and Livestock Industries' Cost Sharing Deed of Agreement for Emergency Animal Disease Response (known as the Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement - EADRA) includes an obligation by each industry party, to develop a program that minimises the risk of disease introduction and spread.

Biosecurity is like any other insurance policy and as such it is a prudent investment.

## **REDUCE THE RISK OF INTRODUCING INFECTIOUS DISEASE BY:**

### **Introduced Stock**

- Purchasing stock from reputable and biosecurity-conscious suppliers.
- Making every effort to assess the health status of incoming stock, including closely examining stock yourself for signs of disease. Only purchase stock from flocks with the same or a higher health status than your own herd. Insist on a vendor's declaration/animal health statement as to the health status and treatment history of the stock.
- Treat incoming alpaca with appropriate parasite drenches and vaccinations and hold stock for a period of no less than 24 hours upon receipt to allow them to empty out in the yards.
- Ensure adequate records of all incoming and outgoing stock transactions are kept up to date and maintained in line with current state/territory legislation.
- Do not mix incoming stock with other stock for a ten day on-farm surveillance period.

- It is important to be wary of the increased risk associated with diseases such as Johne's disease and as such an associated requirement for extended on-farm surveillance periods is required.

### **Vehicle/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 and gelatine are the only animal bi-products which may be legally fed to alpacas.
- 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.
- Ensure you obtain a commodity vendor declaration or by-product vendor declaration for the stock feed being purchased.

### **Boundaries**

- Ensure boundary and internal fences are adequate and maintained to prevent movement of livestock.
- Identify all sites that would allow the entry of potentially contaminated water/faeces. Assess what barriers to such movement exist and put in place barriers where there are identified gaps/weaknesses.

### **Feral animals and wildlife**

- Act upon incidences of feral animal activity around dead stock.
- Coordinate action against ferals with neighbours to maximise effectiveness.
- Protect rubbish dumps from feral and wild animals; these animals are attracted onto your property by these sites.

## **REDUCE THE RISK OF SPREAD OF DISEASE ON-FARM BY:**

### **Regularly monitoring and investigating animal illness/death**

- Report cases of unusual sickness or death to a vet or a government officer for further investigation.
- Investigate suspect cases by collecting appropriate specimens for laboratory examination.
- Remove and isolate sick animals from the remainder of the herd.
- Where possible, record the number of deaths to allow easy reporting of significant increases in mortality - if you are not a member of Q-Alpaca or MAP.
- Undertake a post-mortem examination of any animal over 12 months that dies or is euthanized and of any cria under 12 months that is showing emaciation or diarrhoea and dies or is euthanized.

### **Maintaining good animal health practices**

- Establish and maintain a herd 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.
- Permanently identify all alpaca individually.
- Ensure alpaca are not running on land grazed by cattle, goats, deer unless of a similar MAP status.
- Ensure alpaca are running with sheep with an ABC score of at least 2.

### **Ensuring appropriate disposal of carcasses**

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