

A newsletter for pork producers



PigBytes

Issue 34 July 2017

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Biosecurity Legislation

Amanda Black

On 1 July 2017 the NSW *Biosecurity Act 2015* (the Act) and its subordinate legislation commenced.

Visit the [NSW DPI website](#) for more information.

What is biosecurity?

Biosecurity is the protection of our economy, environment and community from the negative impacts of pests, diseases, weeds and contaminants.

Why is biosecurity important?

Biosecurity protects our \$12 billion primary industries and underpins the health and wellbeing of our community and environment. It keeps our waterways, state forests, parks and infrastructure free from serious pests and weeds, and it keeps our animals free of serious disease.

What are the objectives of the *Biosecurity Act 2015*?

The broad objectives for biosecurity in New South Wales (NSW) are to manage biosecurity risks from animal and plant pests and diseases, weeds and contaminants by:

- preventing their entry into NSW
- quickly finding, containing and eradicating any new entries
- effectively minimising the impacts

of those pests, diseases, weeds and contaminants that cannot be eradicated through robust management arrangements.

The Act provides a flexible and responsive statutory framework to help achieve these objectives for the benefit of the NSW economy, environment and community.

Biosecurity Duties:

The NSW Biosecurity Strategy introduces the concept of shared responsibility. The Strategy's vision is:

'Government, industry and the people of NSW working together to protect the economy, environment and community from the negative impacts of animal and plant pests, diseases and weeds for the benefit of the people of NSW.'

Government is committed to reducing red tape and strengthening relationships, in order to drive economic growth, productivity and innovation and create positive business environments. Industry and community stakeholders can play a proactive role in developing and implementing solutions to effectively manage our biosecurity risks.

To provide a framework for the responsibility for biosecurity risk management to be shared among the community, industry and government, the Act establishes a number of 'biosecurity duties'. These are:

- a general biosecurity duty,
- duties relating to prohibited matter, and
- a duty to notify biosecurity events.

The general biosecurity duty supports the concept of shared responsibility through its broad scope. It increases flexibility in how we can manage animal and plant pests and diseases and contaminants and provides a strong foundation for a proactive and outcome-focused framework based on education and advisory processes instead of the current prescriptive regulatory one.

The general biosecurity duty can be found in Part 3 of the Act. Specifically, section 22 of the Act provides:

Any person who deals with biosecurity matter or a carrier and who knows, or ought reasonably to know, the biosecurity risk posed or likely to be posed by the biosecurity matter, carrier or dealing has a biosecurity duty to ensure that, so far as is reasonably practicable, the biosecurity risk is prevented, eliminated or minimised.

The terms 'biosecurity matter', 'carrier', 'biosecurity impact', 'biosecurity risk' and other important terms are defined in Division 2 of Part 2 of the Act and an explanation provided in [Key terms and definitions](#).

Although the general biosecurity duty applies broadly, there are a number of elements that must be satisfied:

- **Dealing with** – the general biosecurity duty only applies to a person who 'deals with' biosecurity matter or a carrier of biosecurity matter. 'Deal with' includes a very wide range of activities, which are listed in section 12 of the Act. Some examples of dealing with biosecurity matter are; to keep, possess, grow, breed, move, supply or manufacture biosecurity matter.
- **Knowledge** – a person must know, or ought reasonably to know, that there is or is likely to be a biosecurity risk arising from the biosecurity matter, carrier or 'dealing'. This will be a question of fact and will depend on the circumstances of each situation.
- **People who know or ought reasonably to know will** generally include people who carry out dealings with biosecurity matter or carriers on a regular basis as part of a commercial or recreational activity, and people who work professionally (i.e. 'deal') with a particular type of biosecurity matter or carrier. For these people their general knowledge and expertise would in most cases be sufficient to indicate they know the risks.
- **'Reasonably practicable'** – what is reasonably practicable for the prevention, elimination or minimisation of a biosecurity risk will depend on what was reasonably able to be done at a particular time, taking into account and weighing up all relevant matters. Relevant matters include, the nature and potential impact of the biosecurity risk, the person's level of knowledge of the risk and related actions that could be taken to prevent, eliminate or minimise the risk, and the cost, availability and suitability of these actions. It is not likely to be reasonably practicable if the cost is greatly disproportionate to the risk.
- **Preventing, eliminating or minimising** the biosecurity risk – the risk must be prevented or eliminated if reasonably practicable, otherwise it must be minimised so far as is reasonably practicable.

The general biosecurity duty can apply to more than one person in relation to the same biosecurity risk, for example an owner and a manager may both be responsible for managing a particular biosecurity risk on a property.

If you have any questions or would like further information about the Act *please* email biosecuritylegislation@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Or subscribe to the [Biosecurity Act 2015 Newsletter](#)

An interpreter service is available to speak to you in your own language. Please call **13 14 50** (within Australia only) and ask for your language. Then ask to speak with "Kate" on telephone 02 9338 6778.

Young Farmer Business Program

Pip Job

The *Young Farmer Business Program (YFBP)* initiative was jointly developed by the NSW DPI and NSW Farmers in 2016.

This month it has secured \$6m in the NSW state Government budget allocation to support a 4-year program to build the business skills of young farmers across NSW.

The Young Farmer Business Program initiative will:

- Provide young farmers with access to new business ideas, tools, products and services relevant to their skills, knowledge and experience
- Promote and create opportunities for young farmers to connect with other farmers and business networks
- Support existing young farmers and new entrant young farmers on their business journey across all agricultural and fisheries sectors.

The program aims to improve young farmer connections, knowledge, skills and experience to better manage risk, execute effective plans and make decisions that enhance business and personal resilience in the long-term.

The YFBP will use a USE, LEARN, CONNECT framework to deliver a diverse range of initiatives

that meet the needs of young people aged 18-35 years.

USE: The development of a website which acts as a HUB for resources, tools and information sharing.

LEARN: Facilitating bespoke learning activities to meet the varying business needs of young farmers and their business aspirations. This includes workshops, coaching and mentoring programs.

CONNECT: Initiating and strengthening collaborative partnerships with key stakeholder's to create opportunities for young farmers and creating opportunities for young farmers to interact and connect online and face to face.

To help the team tailor design the first part of the program, young farmers are encouraged to complete a [short survey](#) which closes on the 31st July 2017.

An Advisory Committee will be formed to support the YFBP and expressions of interest will be called for in July 2017 for 3 young farmers who would like to add value and experience to the program and have the opportunity to enhance their professional skills as a Committee member.

For further information on the program, or how you can work with our team, please contact the Senior Project Officer, Pip Job on Mob: 0437 214 688 or

Email: pip.job@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Follow us on Facebook, or subscribe at <http://www.youngfarmerbusinessproject.org.au/>

There are also 2 Bank Ready workshops in the pipeline for July.

[Singleton Tuesday 18th July](#)

[Lismore Wednesday 19th July](#)

Helping young farmers thrive

Deb Banks (Victoria)

(The following article is from the Northern Ag News 29th June 2017 – further information deb.banks@ecodev.vic.gov.au)

There is help for our next generation of farming leaders to take the next big step in their food and fibre career, with the announcement of the Young Farmer Scholarships.

With world-renowned clean and green Victorian produce, emerging export markets and evolving technologies to name just a few of the positives, there's never been a better time to embark on a career in agriculture.

Scholarships are available to help young farmers equip themselves for the farming challenges of the future.

25 young people across regional Victoria have already benefitted from this training opportunity and are now putting their skills to work in our \$13 billion agriculture sector.

Up to \$10,000 is available to farmers and farm workers aged 35 years or under to help them with development and career progression.

The funding consists of up to \$5,000 for study, backed by a further \$5,000 to invest on-farm or in professional development activities to help put new skills into practice.

Examples of eligible courses include a Diploma in Agriculture, human resources training, business management courses, a Diploma of Agribusiness Management and a range of on-farm technical training.

Applications for the Young Farmers Scholarship Program are open now and close on the 30th August 2017. For more information visit the [Agriculture Victoria website](#).

Fox problems in outdoor herds

Jayne Morgan

Foxes can be a problem at any time of year as they are very opportunistic feeders and will eat everything from carrion and waste food to tasty newborn piglets or lambs.

Winter spring is their breeding season but also the time of year when the effects of their predatory activities are most keenly felt as they need to feed their young.

Figure1: Fox with rabbit carcass.



Source: Warrack Herald

If you can find the den you might be able to treat the den to lessen the problem until a more comprehensive fox control program can be initiated.

Foxes are territorial, yet mobile and can quickly move into new areas of limited numbers of foxes especially if the food sources are plentiful.

A good website for information on control measures and fox biology is the [PestSmart website](#) powered by the Invasive Animals CRC.

Producers in NSW are advised to contact their Local Land Service (LLS). Biosecurity Officers can assist with coordination of community control programs and provide advice for current problems.

The LLS also run short training courses to give land holders the necessary training for the use of baits on their properties.

It would be wise to consult with LLS before you embark on any control measure such as shooting or baiting to be sure you are aware of the legal obligations of your activities.

LLS: Phone 1300 795 299 or [LLS Website](#)

Landholders in other states should contact their states version of the Department of Primary Industries.

Pigs intrigue the public

Jayce Morgan

There is no doubt that live animals attract people's interest and pigs are no exception.

Recently I attended a very soggy Primex Field Days in Casino as part of a collaborative effort with Northern Cooperative Meats (NCMC) and APL.

The aim was to raise the profile of pigs and the pork industry in the Northern Rivers region.

We had 2 live gilt pigs kindly supplied by John Singh of Byron Bay Pork – one was a Berkshire and one was a Hampshire.

Figure 2: Pigs proved to be a good drawcard at a soggy Primex.



Source: Jayce Morgan

About two thirds of passers-by were drawn to the pigs – some stayed to talk while others got photos of their children petting the pigs.

Now was it worth the effort? Well we made contact with high school children and their teachers, a couple of private vets asking about pigs, farmers and intending farmers, as well as consumers of pork. There were discussions on production and current prices, general industry information, swill feeding and APIQ.

How do you value relationship building because that is what you are doing at these events?

So where else are pigs attracting interest?

Members of the Stud Pig Breeders Association, some dedicated Forbes pork producers and some school teachers have also been making extra effort to get school students more interested in pigs.

Forbes farmers and Stud Pork breeders (from South Australia, Victoria, NSW and Queensland) have combined efforts for 3 years now to hold the Bedgerabong Youth show day and the Forbes Stud pig sales. Around 70 – 90 students from about 7 schools attended the Youth day over each of the 3 years.

Figure 3: Students at Bedgerabong listening to a talk on pork production. This year Ean Pollard addressed the students, last year the speaker was Edwina Beveridge.



Source: Jayce Morgan

In December 2016 Armidale New England Girls School (NEGS) also hosted a day for local schools focussing on pigs - about 100 students from 7 schools were present.

APL was involved in helping to run a schools' pig and carcass competition at Sydney Royal this year.

At Dubbo show this year the Stud Breeders also held a workshop which attracted an interested crowd.

Figure 3: A student at the Armidale NEGS pig day judging pigs under the supervision of Richard Cole (Forbes) and Brendan Voss (Wauchope)



Source: Jayce Morgan

Apart from small scale free range farms pigs are largely invisible in the landscape. It is only at Field Day events or agricultural shows that people might see pigs and pig farmers.

All these events had live pigs and show the human side of pork production through opportunities to talk to the pork producer; so beneficial in maintaining and building the industry's social license.

These activities also have the potential to nurture an increased interest of young people in pigs.

Well done to all involved.

Support for Pork Producers

Jayce Morgan

Pork prices have dropped and now it looks like grain prices are increasing, creating a testing environment for many pork producers.

If you are struggling to cope financially or emotionally there are people and services available to help.

NSW has a [Rural Resilience program](#) which includes a Rural Financial counselling service and [Rural Resilience Officers](#) to help you find the services you may need.

Alternatively talk to your farming organisation:

- Australian Pork Limited
- [NSW Farmers](#),
- [Victorian Farmers Federation](#),
- [Queensland Farmers Federation – Pork Queensland Inc.](#)

Help is available if you need it.

Trading pigs interstate

Jayce Morgan

Pork producers are reminded that when trading pigs across state boundaries there are extra requirements to the PigPass NVD and swine brand.

Producers wishing to send pigs interstate should contact the Department of Agriculture in the state of destination for the exact information.

Pigs should be accompanied by a veterinary certificate to prove their health status.

Producers wishing to purchase pigs from outdoor herds for breeding purposes should request information on the vaccination history for diseases such as leptospirosis, erysipelas and parvovirus.

Outdoor herds in Queensland and northern NSW are also at risk of *Brucella suis* particularly if feral pigs are in the area.

More information:

[Brucellosis in pigs](#)

[Moving pigs into Queensland](#)

[Moving pigs into Victoria](#)

[Moving pigs into South Australia](#)

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<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/newsletters/pigbytes>

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