

Biosecurity - Chemically affected food-producing animals, animal food commodities and stock food

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1. Purpose

This policy describes what the New South Wales Government will do to minimise the incidence of and manage the risks posed by chemically affected food producing animals, animal food commodities and stock food in New South Wales (NSW).

Managing the threat of food producing animals, animal food commodities and stock food becoming chemically affected benefits the economy, community and environment of NSW, including by supporting food animal and stock food producing industries and international trade.

2. Scope

This policy applies to NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI) and Local Land Services (LLS), offices within the Department of Regional NSW, implementing activities under the [Biosecurity Act 2015](#) (the Act), the [Stock Medicines Act 1989](#) and the [Local Land Services Act 2013](#). DPI and LLS veterinarians and biosecurity officers act as Authorised Officers (AOs) under the Act.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the overarching policy [Biosecurity - Management of animal biosecurity in NSW](#).

The [Act](#) or the [Biosecurity Regulation 2017](#) (the Regulation) define the following terms: contaminant, chemically affected, food producing animal, animal food commodity and stock food.

For the purpose of this policy, contaminants and residues include but are not limited to those specified in the following Commonwealth legislative instruments:

- [Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Instrument No. 4 \(MRL Standard\) 2012](#) and
- [Australian New Zealand Food Standards Code- Schedule 19 - Maximum levels of contaminants and natural toxicants.](#)

The determination of whether a food producing animal, animal food commodity or stock food is chemically affected for the purposes the Act, is done by consultation between authorised DPI and LLS representatives, having regard to available information, health advice, and policies relating to specific contaminants which may be issued by DPI from time to time.

3. Roles

Table 1 shows the primary NSW DPI business units undertaking activities in relation to chemically affected food-producing animals, animal food commodities or stock food, and indicates where LLS field activities may be required. Investigation and management of chemically affected food-producing animals, animal food commodities and stock food may be complex, usually requiring collaboration between DPI business units outside or in addition to those described in the table, which should serve as a guideline only.

Table 1: Roles of DPI business units in investigating and managing chemically affected food-producing animals, animal food commodities and stock food chemically affected food animals.

Commodity	DPI business unit and/or LLS
Mammalian products – meat	Animal Biosecurity (State Residue Coordinator) LLS (District Veterinarian)
Mammalian products – milk	Food Safety, Compliance & Integrity Systems,
Poultry – meat	Animal Biosecurity (State Residue Coordinator) LLS (District Veterinarian)
Poultry – eggs	Food Safety, Compliance & Integrity Systems
Fish, crustaceans and molluscs [Aquaculture and wild-caught]	Food Safety [liaising with, Compliance & Integrity Systems, and NSW Fisheries Branch as required]
Honey	Compliance & Integrity Systems Plant Biosecurity and Product Integrity
Stock food	Compliance & Integrity Systems Plant Biosecurity and Product Integrity
Complex issues requiring detailed scientific approach and/or an inter-agency approach.	State Residue Coordinator engages with units listed above and Chief Scientist's Unit as required.

4. Safety requirements

The *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* places an obligation on NSW DPI and LLS to maintain a safe and healthy workplace. Safe work method statements that support activities included in this policy must be used to identify, assess and control risks.

NSW DPI and LLS will work together to create a safe and supportive work environment when undertaking any activities related to this policy.

5. Outcomes

5.1 NSW DPI and LLS participation in national programs minimises the incidence and impact of chemically affected food producing animals, animal food commodities and stock food in NSW and supports domestic and international trade.

- a. NSW actively participates in national and international programs and agreements that identify, assess and manage the biosecurity and food safety threat of chemical contaminants and residues in food producing animals, animal food commodities and stock food
- b. NSW DPI and LLS support the [National Residue Survey \(NRS\)](#) to manage the food safety risk of chemical residues and environmental contaminants in Australian animal products and maintain Australia's status as a producer of clean food, facilitating domestic and export market access.

5.1.1 Activities

- NSW DPI represents NSW on national committees and task groups relating to chemically affected food-producing animals, animal food commodities and stock food (5.1a)
- NSW DPI and LLS work with the NRS to investigate and report on incidents of potentially chemically affected food producing animals, animal commodities and stock food in NSW in a robust, evidence-based and timely manner (5.1a, 5.1b)
- NSW DPI and LLS staff utilise national systems such as the [National Livestock Identification System \(NLIS\)](#) to manage and minimise the biosecurity and food safety threats from chemically affected food producing animals, animal commodities and stock food (5.1a, 5.1b)
- DPI and LLS maintain awareness and understanding of market sensitivities about residues and contaminants in food producing animals, animal food commodities and stock food (5.1b).

5.2 NSW DPI and LLS activities minimise the incidence and impact of chemically affected food producing animals, animal food commodities and stock food threats in NSW

- a. NSW DPI and LLS identify, assess and manage biosecurity and food safety threats from chemically affected food producing animals, animal commodities and stock food in NSW in a robust, evidence-based and timely manner
- b. Consumers have confidence that animal food commodities produced in NSW meet [National Food Standards 1.4.1 and 1.4.2](#), and are safe to consume.

5.2.1 Activities

- NSW DPI and LLS implement detection, monitoring and compliance programs and procedures to minimise the incidence and impact of biosecurity and food safety threats from chemically affected food producing animals and animal food commodities. For example, implementing and applying procedures relating to specific contaminants (such as the procedures *Biosecurity – Chemical trace back investigation; Biosecurity - Lead affected*

food producing animals; Biosecurity- National Organochloride Residue Management (NORM) program; and Biosecurity – Stock foods reporting(5.2a, 5.2b).

- NSW DPI and LLS staff investigate detections of contaminants and residues in the field, liaising with the State Residue Coordinator (SRC) or other relevant DPI business units to minimise biosecurity and food safety threats from chemically affected food producing animals, animal food commodities and stock food in NSW (5.2a, 5.2b).
- NSW DPI investigates reports of non-compliance with the stock food provisions in Division 9 (Animal Food) of the Regulation, as per the procedure [Biosecurity - Stock Foods Reporting](#) (5.2a)
- NSW DPI and LLS maintain accurate and up-to-date records of chemically affected animals in NSW, as per the NSW DPI policy [Biosecurity - Surveillance for Animal Pests and Diseases](#) (5.2a, 5.2b).

5.3 NSW DPI and LLS are innovative in managing biosecurity and food safety threats from chemically affected food producing animals, animal food commodities and stock food in NSW

- a. NSW DPI and LLS are proactive in anticipating, eliminating, mitigating and managing biosecurity and food safety threats from chemically affected food producing animals, animal commodities and stock food in NSW
- b. NSW DPI and LLS staff have and build knowledge, skills and tools to identify, assess and manage threats to biosecurity and food safety from chemically affected food producing animals, animal food commodities and stock food.

5.3.1 Activities

- NSW DPI and LLS develop detection, monitoring and compliance enforcement programs to minimise the incidence and impact of biosecurity and food safety threats from chemically affected food producing animals, animal food commodities and stock food threats in NSW (5.3a, 5.3b)
- NSW DPI and LLS staff are trained in assessing and managing biosecurity and food safety threats from chemical contaminants and residues in food producing animals, animal food commodities and stock food (5.3b)
- NSW DPI and LLS staff utilise tools such as laboratory testing, timely access to relevant scientific literature and expertise and the [NLIS](#) to assess and manage biosecurity and food safety threats from chemically affected food producing animals, animal commodities and stock food in NSW (5.3b)
- NSW DPI conducts periodic reviews of industry quality assurance data about biosecurity and food safety threats from chemically affected animal food commodities (5.3a)
- NSW DPI conducts periodic, targeted surveillance to assess biosecurity and food safety threats from chemically affected food producing animals, animal food commodities and stock food, for example the triennial survey of heavy metal and chemicals in NSW shellfish (5.3a).

5.4 Stakeholders are empowered to implement practices to prevent or minimise the incidence and impact of food producing animals, animal food commodities and stock food in NSW from becoming chemically affected.

- a. Stakeholders understand their legislative obligations to prevent, eliminate or minimise the risk of food producing animals, animal food commodities and stock food from becoming chemically affected

- b. Stakeholders can access information to assist them to prevent, eliminate or minimise the risk of food producing animals, animal food commodities and stock food from becoming chemically affected
- c. DPI and LLS work with NRS, other jurisdictions and landholders to minimise the incidence and impact of biosecurity and food safety threats from chemically affected food producing animals, animal food commodities and stock food in NSW.

5.4.1 Activities

- NSW DPI and LLS coordinate, via the SRC, to develop media communications about chemical contaminants and residues affecting food producing animals, animal food commodities and stock food, with the requisite LLS/DPI approvals (5.4a, 5.4b, 5.4c).
- DPI and LLS coordinate, via the SRC, to develop and implement stakeholder engagement plans and/or resources that include information about chemical contaminant residues affecting food producing animals, animal food commodities and stock food, consulting with the Commonwealth as required (5.4a, 5.4b)
- NSW DPI and LLS coordinate to provide advice to stakeholders about their obligations to prevent, eliminate or minimise the risk of food producing animals, animal food commodities and stock food becoming chemically affected (5.4a)
- Approved policies and procedures are available to stakeholders to assist them to prevent, eliminate or minimise the biosecurity and food safety threat from food producing animals, animal food commodities and stock food becoming chemically affected (5.4b)
- NSW DPI and LLS develop and maintain relationships with NRS, LLS and other jurisdictions and stakeholders to facilitate effective and timely communication to prevent or minimise the incidence and impact of food producing animals, animal food commodities and stock food in NSW becoming chemically affected (5.4c).

5. Related Procedures

[Biosecurity –Chemical trace back investigation](#)

[Biosecurity - Lead affected food producing animals](#)

[Biosecurity- National Organochloride Residue Management \(NORM\) program](#)

[Biosecurity - Surveillance for Animal Pests and Diseases](#)

[Biosecurity – Stock foods reporting](#)

[Biosecurity - Collection, use and disclosure if information](#)

6. Definitions and acronyms

FSANZ	Food Standards Australia and New Zealand
LLS	Local Land Services
NLIS	National Livestock Identification System
NORM	National Organochloride Residue Management
NRS	National Residue Survey
NSW DPI	NSW Department of Primary Industries
MRL	Maximum Residue Limit
SRC	State Residue Coordinator

7. Legislation

Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (NSW) Act 1994

Animal Research Act 1985

Biosecurity Act 2015

Exhibited Animals Protection Act 1986

Food Act 2003

Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009
 Government Sector Employment Act 2013
 Local Land Services Act 2013
 Pesticides Act 1999
 Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998
 Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979
 State Records Act 1998
 Stock Medicines Act 1989
 Veterinary Practice Act 2011
 Work Health and Safety Act 2011

8. Other related documents

[Policy - Biosecurity - Management of animal biosecurity in NSW](#)
[Policy – Biosecurity - Prohibited matter - pests and diseases of animals](#)
[Policy – Biosecurity - Endemic pests and diseases of animals](#)
[Policy – Biosecurity - Surveillance for pests and diseases of animals](#)
[Policy - Biosecurity - Collection, use and disclosure if information](#)
 Policy - Records Management (IND-I-177)
 Policy - Information Security (IND-I-197)
 Policy - Classified Information (IND-I-196)
 Policy - Government Information (Public Access) (IND-I-178)
 Australian Code of Good Manufacturing Practice for the Feed Milling Industry

9. Revision History

Version	Date issued	Notes	By
1.0	01/07/2017	New policy developed in response to the <i>Biosecurity Act 2015</i> .	DPI Animal biosecurity and welfare
2.0	05/07/2021	Policy update to define roles of LLTPS and DPI business units	DPI animal biosecurity and LLS

10. Contact

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