SHEARING

The NSW sheep industry is a vital contributor to the $3.3 billion Australian sheep meat industry and $1.9 billion wool industry. Diseases such as virulent footrot have had significant economic impacts affecting productivity and market access.

Shearing time sees an increase in the risk of the spread of pests and diseases such as tapeworm and scabby mouth, due to yarding and shedding of large numbers of sheep. In addition, the movement of shearsers from property to property increases the risk of transferring pests, weeds and diseases they may have settled on your clothes, shearing equipment or vehicle.

Vigilance at this time can help protect your industry while safeguarding our economy, environment, community and livelihoods.

This factsheet provides a summary of management arrangements for sheep biosecurity risks in NSW. More detailed information is available in the Biosecurity Regulation 2017, Biosecurity Order (Permitted Activities) 2017 and other documents at dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurityact

GENERAL BIOSECURITY DUTY

OUTCOME IS TO PREVENT, ELIMINATE & MINIMISE RISKS

- Any shearer or person working in a shearing shed has a responsibility for managing biosecurity risks that they know about or could reasonably be expected to know about.

What can you do to help?

COME CLEAN GO CLEAN

- Wear clean clothes and shoes and take extra care to clean all tools and gear particularly when moving between sheds

FOLLOW THE PLANS

- Discuss biosecurity with the owner or manager of each shed, ask about their biosecurity plans and follow them
- Ensure that any dogs travelling with shearing teams are vaccinated and wormed, and they are managed according to the biosecurity plan of each property they visit

KEEP AN EYE OUT

- Make sure the owner or manager is aware of any suspected concerns such as lame sheep, scouring or any generally unhealthy looking sheep
General biosecurity duty

The general biosecurity duty supports the principle of shared responsibility, and means everyone is doing what is reasonable for them to do to prevent, eliminate or minimise biosecurity risks.

As the general biosecurity duty is outcome focused and not a prescriptive regulation, growers have greater flexibility in determining the management arrangements that best suit their operation.

For further information about the Act, visit our website or contact us:

W  dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurityact
E  biosecuritylegislation@dpi.nsw.gov.au