

Farm Biosecurity Health Check

Completing this health check will allow you to identify practices for improving your on-farm biosecurity management.

What is the farm biosecurity health check?

The farm biosecurity health check is a self-assessment checklist for your farm. It aims to highlight areas/practices on your farm where biosecurity can be improved. A farm that can lead to better on-farm biosecurity leads to outcomes and ultimately increased productivity, improved animal welfare and profit.

The farm biosecurity health check is not a test. It will help you and your farm team identify and think about the biosecurity issues on your farm.

Why use it?

Biosecurity can often seem daunting and not that relevant to your farm. The reality is very different. The farm biosecurity health check will help you easily and logically identify issues and opportunities to improve your own biosecurity practices. In fact, most farmers are already practicing many of the key elements of biosecurity, often without even realising it.

What is on-farm biosecurity?

On-farm biosecurity is a set of practices and behaviours to reduce the risk of infectious diseases or weeds entering, spreading within, or leaving your farm. This tool will help you develop your own on-farm biosecurity plan.

Protecting profits

Disease outbreaks or new pasture pests and weeds can have a serious and long-term financial impact on your farm. By taking the time to develop and implement an on-farm biosecurity plan, you will reduce the risks of introducing or spreading these pests and diseases.

Protecting health

Some diseases can be passed from animals to humans. Biosecurity planning will help protect not only the health of your stock, but also the health and safety of your family, farm workers and visitors to your farm.

Who should use it?

The farm biosecurity health check can, and should, be used by all people working on your farm – owner, sharemilker and staff.

How to use it

Go through the health check and answer the questions. After answering the questions you will be able to come up with actions to improve biosecurity on your farm. Fill out these actions on the back page of this booklet in the 'Farm Biosecurity Health Check action plan'.

For more information refer to dairynz.co.nz/biosecurity.

Visitor management

1. Do you have a farm biosecurity policy?

Having a written farm biosecurity policy makes it clear to staff and visitors what you expect from everyone in terms of managing biosecurity on your farm. A policy is also helpful for staff training.

✓ Yes



✗ No



✎ Comments / Actions (What, where, who, when)

2. Does your entrance or arrival area have signs reminding visitors of your biosecurity requirements?

This alerts all visitors as they arrive that you are actively managing biosecurity risks and that, as visitors to your farm, there are some requirements for them too. It is helpful to include the name and contact phone number of the farm owner/manager so if visitors have any queries they can contact the right person. This could be combined with your health and safety signage at the gate.

✓ Yes



✗ No



✎ Comments / Actions (What, where, who, when)

3. Do you have designated parking for visitors?

Visitors' vehicles present a significant risk of transferring weed seeds, such as Velvet leaf, onto your farm so having a designated place for visitors or contractors to park is a good way to limit this risk. Having a dedicated area also helps to ensure visitors sign in, make use of boot and equipment cleaning areas, and be aware of your biosecurity protocols.

✓ Yes



✗ No



✎ Comments / Actions (What, where, who, when)

4. Is parking on hard standing?

Having a firm surface clear of mud and vegetation for parking allows easy inspection of vehicles for contamination from other sites such as mud, animal faeces and vegetation. It is also easier to clean vehicles and manage waste water on a hard surface.

✓ Yes



✗ No



✎ Comments / Actions (What, where, who, when)



5. Do you have a visitor sign in book with biosecurity reminders?

This is an easy way of communicating your biosecurity requirements to visitors, and also gives you a written record of who has been on your farm if you ever need to do any follow-up. It could also be used for health and safety purposes. This can be as easy as having a notebook and pen at the shed and a sign to remind visitors to sign in.

✓ Yes	✗ No	✎ Comments / Actions (What, where, who, when)
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	

6. Do you have a place to clean boots and equipment?

If you make it easy for people to clean their boots and equipment they are more likely to do so. Provide water (cold water is OK), a bucket, brush and some detergent. The waste water from cleaning should be directed to a drain rather than left to run over areas that people and animals may walk through.

✓ Yes	✗ No	✎ Comments / Actions (What, where, who, when)
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	

7. Do you supply disinfectant for visitors' footwear or equipment?

Disinfecting footwear and equipment after cleaning minimises the chance of spreading unwanted diseases. A hand held spray bottle with disinfectant is sufficient. Encourage visitors to use the disinfectant and leave on boots or equipment for 10 minutes before rinsing off. The disinfectant should be replaced regularly (at least weekly) to maintain its effectiveness.

✓ Yes	✗ No	✎ Comments / Actions (What, where, who, when)
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	

8. Do you provide clean protective clothing and boots for visitors?

Providing protective clothing and boots for visitors reduces the risk of visitors bringing unwanted pests and diseases onto your farm. By doing this you are not relying on your visitors to have effectively cleaned their clothing and footwear prior to coming to your farm. You could also consider supplying boot covers if you don't have boots for visitors, however these are not very durable if your visitors are going to do a lot of walking on your farm.

✓ Yes	✗ No	✎ Comments / Actions (What, where, who, when)
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	

Animal health management

9. Do you have an animal health plan for the herd?

An animal health plan is an annual plan that shows what treatment and health management activities you are going to do with each class of stock, and when these are going to be done.

Having a plan for managing animal health reduces the risk of unexpected disease in the herd, and also allows you to better manage activities that prevent animal health issues such as lameness, mastitis and infectious diseases. Things to consider for an animal health plan are vaccination schedules, control of internal and external parasites, routine monitoring for diseases such as BVD and facial eczema, screening for mastitis, and management of lame cows. Your veterinarian can assist with developing a plan if you don't have one.

If you are managing animal health well, you will notice more quickly any change in the health of your animals. Early detection reduces the impact of disease as it allows control measures to be implemented sooner and limits the number of animals affected. Early detection is also very important for limiting the impact of any new exotic disease discovered in NZ.

✓ Yes	✗ No	✎ Comments / Actions (What, where, who, when)
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	

10. Do you have a dedicated sick animal area?

It is good practice to keep animals that are not well separate from the rest of the herd. This limits the spread of infectious diseases, and also allows you to provide specific care and management of these animals. It is also good practice to have separate pens (if applicable), feed areas and water troughs for the sick animal area. A number of diseases are spread via faeces, urine, saliva and other secretions, so contact with other animals should be minimised. A small paddock close to the shed is usually the best place to keep sick stock.

✓ Yes	✗ No	✎ Comments / Actions (What, where, who, when)
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	

11. Do you record all vaccinations, animal treatments (eg antibiotics given), TB testing, drenching and parasite treatments of your herd?

Keeping a record of all treatments and animal health management activities means that you will know when repeat or booster treatments such as vaccinations are needed, and also assists with ensuring you manage drug withholding periods correctly. Having this information on hand will mean you can easily supply this information when animals leave your property. Your shed diary, or electronic herd record system are good places to keep this information.

✓ Yes	✗ No	✎ Comments / Actions (What, where, who, when)
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	



Cattle movements and purchases

12. Do you operate a completely closed herd?

A completely closed herd is one where there is no contact with animals from other herds – all classes of stock are bred and raised on the farm, and if any animals leave the herd they do not return to the herd.

If you are not able to operate a completely closed herd then take steps to minimise the risk from moving stock on and off the farm. You can do this by treating all incoming stock as new arrivals (see New Arrivals section), even if you already own the animals.

✓ Yes	✗ No	✎ Comments / Actions (What, where, who, when)
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	

13. Do you send heifers, or any other class of stock, away for grazing?

Sending animals away for grazing potentially exposes them to diseases that you may not have on your farm. If your animals are grazed with animals from other herds then you should treat them as new arrivals when they return home.

✓ Yes	✗ No	✎ Comments / Actions (What, where, who, when)
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	

14. Do you buy in or lease bulls, or any other class of stock?

Any animals that come onto your farm are a potential source of disease for your herd. Know the health status of these animals to manage any risks appropriately, and treat them as new arrivals.

✓ Yes	✗ No	✎ Comments / Actions (What, where, who, when)
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	

15. Do you take cattle to shows or other events?

Any event where animals from different farms are held together is an opportunity for disease to spread amongst the animals. Show organisers will usually have a set of criteria regarding animal health that all participants are expected to abide by, and this is to protect all the animals present. If you are attending these events, make sure you know the criteria and abide by them.






✓ Yes	✗ No	✎ Comments / Actions (What, where, who, when)
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	



16. If you purchase cattle, do you use sale yards?






There are normally large numbers of animals at sale yards from many herds. Keeping all these animals in close proximity to each other means that disease can spread more easily between groups of animals. In addition, most of the animals will have been transported on trucks and, depending on how clean the trucks are, could be exposed to disease from faeces and other material remaining from previous journeys. Sale yards are regarded as high risk for disease transmission, and in disease outbreaks overseas stock that have passed through sale yards (or markets) have played an important role in the spread of the disease, for example the 2001 outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) in the UK.

If you buy animals that have passed through sale yards the risk of introducing a new disease to your herd can be higher than if you buy directly. It is recommended that you hold these animals separately to the rest of the herd and check them carefully for any signs of disease before they are mixed with resident animals (see New Arrivals section).

 Yes	 No	 Comments / Actions (What, where, who, when)
		






17. Do you use a buyer's checklist when you buy cattle?

Using a buyer's checklist will make sure that you don't forget to ask about, or check, something important. It will also give you a record of the health status of the animals at the time of purchase. (Provide link to generic buyers checklist with logos on).

 Yes	 No	 Comments / Actions (What, where, who, when)
		

18. Do you know the Tuberculosis (TB) status of animals you are buying?

This information should be recorded on the ASD (Animal Status Declaration) that accompanies the animals, but you should check that you are comfortable with the TB status before you buy. Buying animals with a higher risk of TB than your own herd could lead to increased testing and possibly restrictions on movement of animals out of your herd. Further information is available from www.ospri.co.nz. In addition, make sure the TB status of your own herd is kept up to date.

 Yes	 No	 Comments / Actions (What, where, who, when)
		

19. Do you know the Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) status of animals you are buying?

BVD is very common in NZ, and could have a significant impact on the health of your herd. An outbreak of BVD can cause reproductive losses, an increase in general disease, reduced growth rates of young stock and lowered milk production. The main source of infection for a herd is persistently infected (PI) animals. Ensuring that you don't bring in animals that are shedding BVD virus, especially PI animals and bulls, is important for protecting your herd. Further information is available from www.controlbvd.org.nz, and your veterinarian can help you develop a BVD management plan for your herd.

✓ Yes

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✗ No

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✎ Comments / Actions (What, where, who, when)

20. Do you know the vaccination status of new arrivals?

A number of common diseases are readily controlled by vaccination. Knowing if incoming animals have been vaccinated, and whether their vaccinations are up to date, will enable you to better manage any risk of these animals bringing infection onto your farm. This information is also important for you in managing the ongoing health of the new arrivals. Your veterinarian can provide advice on recommended vaccination schedules. Keep records of the vaccinations that your herd receives.

✓ Yes

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✗ No

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✎ Comments / Actions (What, where, who, when)

21. Do you know the drenching and external parasite treatment history of new arrivals?

Drench resistance is becoming increasingly common in NZ and this makes managing parasite burdens, especially in young animals, challenging. Knowing when, and with what, your new arrivals have been dosed with will enable you to better manage your drenching and external parasite management programme, and protect both the new arrivals and resident stock. Your veterinarian can provide advice on recommended drenching and external parasite treatments. Keep records of the drenching and external parasite treatments that you give to your herd.

✓ Yes

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✗ No

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✎ Comments / Actions (What, where, who, when)

New Arrivals

22. Do you keep newly-arrived animals separate for seven days?

Keeping newly-arrived animals separate from resident animals allows you to assess the health status of the new animals and administer any treatments such as drenching or vaccinations that may be advisable. If animals are incubating an infection, but not showing clinical signs on arrival, this time will allow the clinical signs to develop for many common conditions. You can then manage and treat these animals before they spread infection to the rest of the herd.

✓ Yes	✗ No	✎ Comments / Actions (What, where, who, when)
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	

23. Do you have separate pens, water, and feed areas for newly-arrived animals?

A number of significant diseases are spread via faeces, urine, saliva and other secretions. If new arrivals are sharing pens, water troughs and or feeding areas with resident animals then disease can be transmitted between the groups of animals – this can be both diseases new to the farm from the newly arrived animals, and diseases present on the farm that the new animals have not been exposed to before. It is best to have a separate paddock or pen for newly-arrived animals with separate feed and water.

✓ Yes	✗ No	✎ Comments / Actions (What, where, who, when)
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	

24. Do you have a treatment and vaccination protocol for new arrivals?

It is worth having a treatment and vaccination protocol for all new arrivals based on your herd health status. This should include considering treatment for internal and/or external parasites as the new arrivals may be carrying parasites that are not already present on your farm. This means you can take a standard and considered approach based on the information you have about the new arrivals, and not forget anything that is important for maintaining the animal health status of your farm.

✓ Yes	✗ No	✎ Comments / Actions (What, where, who, when)
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	

25. Are the treatment and vaccination protocols for new arrivals documented?

Documented plans record what has been agreed and act as a reminder to ensure all actions that need to happen do actually happen.

✓ Yes	✗ No	✎ Comments / Actions (What, where, who, when)
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	



Farm boundaries

26. Do you have shared farm boundaries with other livestock farms?

Other livestock farms may have a different animal health status to your herd and, therefore, should be regarded as a potential source of infection for your herd. Contact between animals across boundary fences should be avoided.

✓ Yes	✗ No	✎ Comments / Actions (What, where, who, when)
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	

27. Are your boundary fences secure?

Secure boundary fences will minimise the chance of animals from other herds straying onto your farm. Stray animals should be regarded as new arrivals in terms of disease management, and be separated from the herd as soon as possible.

✓ Yes	✗ No	✎ Comments / Actions (What, where, who, when)
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	

28. Do your stock ever have nose to nose contact with your neighbour's stock?

Some diseases, such as BVD, are transmitted by nose to nose contact between animals. Minimising the opportunity for nose to nose contact will limit the chance of disease transmission. This can be done by not grazing boundary paddocks at the same time that the neighbour's cows are grazing the adjacent paddock or by creating double fencing or outrigger fences, or other barriers such as hedgerows. The distance between fences should be at least 2 metres for adult stock.

✓ Yes	✗ No	✎ Comments / Actions (What, where, who, when)
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	

29. Are you aware of your neighbour's cattle disease status, such as their BVD status?

If you know the health status of your neighbour's herd, then you can evaluate the risk that these animals pose to your own herd. To manage this risk, you may wish to take some extra precautions in your animal health plan, or do some additional monitoring for early warning of a change in animal health status in your herd. Also communicate your animal health status to your neighbour in case there is anything they need to be aware of.

✓ Yes	✗ No	✎ Comments / Actions (What, where, who, when)
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	



Machinery and equipment

30. Do you share your own machinery and/or equipment with other farms or borrow machinery and/or equipment from other farms?

Machinery and equipment that has been on other farms and not cleaned of soil, vegetation and animal waste, and where necessary disinfected, can spread weed seeds and animal diseases between farms. You can minimise the risk of vehicles, machinery and equipment bringing new weeds and diseases onto your farm by ensuring that these are cleaned, and where necessary disinfected, prior to arrival. Removing soil and plant material from vehicles and machinery will remove weed seeds and animal faeces that can spread disease. Equipment, especially equipment used for handling animals or administering treatments, should always be cleaned and disinfected between farms.

If you share equipment with other farms, make sure there is a plan for cleaning it between farms.

✓ Yes	✗ No	✎ Comments / Actions (What, where, who, when)
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	

31. Do you have a dedicated washing point with a waste area for water run-off?

If vehicles and equipment are cleaned on your farm this should be done at a dedicated washing point so that waste water can be contained. Harvesting/cultivating machinery should be cleaned before leaving the paddock. Waste water may contain weed seeds, or bacteria and viruses that can cause animal disease, and allowing this to spread in an uncontrolled manner increases the risk of introducing something unwanted to your farm. Also ensure that waste water does not go into waterways as this is another way to spread seeds.

✓ Yes	✗ No	✎ Comments / Actions (What, where, who, when)
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	

32. Does vehicle wash-water go into your effluent irrigation system?

Vehicle wash-water may contain weed seeds and spreading this water on the farm via the irrigation system can result in these weed seeds being widely distributed across the farm.

✓ Yes	✗ No	✎ Comments / Actions (What, where, who, when)
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	

33. Do you use contractors for spraying, silage, effluent removal, or other services?

Contractors' vehicles have usually been on many farms. Unless these are properly cleaned between farms they are a high risk for spreading weeds and animal disease. You can minimise the risk of contractors' machinery and equipment bringing weed seeds and animal disease onto your farm by ensuring the machinery and equipment is clean when it arrives. Discussing this with contractors or having this covered in agreements means that contractors know your requirements prior to arriving on your farm. The National Pest Control Agency website contains a guide downloadable as a pdf... "A16 Keep it clean: Machinery hygiene guidelines and log book to prevent the spread of pests and weeds". The index page for the guides is found at www.npca.org/index-php/a-series-best-practice.html

✓ Yes	✗ No	✎ Comments / Actions (What, where, who, when)
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	

Dead stock collection and disposal

34. Do you have dedicated collection areas out of sight but close to the boundary for dead stock removal?

Animal carcasses are unsightly, attract vermin, and can be a source of infection for other stock. Having a dedicated area for carcasses enables you to better manage this risk. If this area is close to the road boundary, then this makes collection easier for the contractor. It is important this area is out of sight from the general public, away from waterways, and that the carcasses are covered.

✓ Yes	✗ No	✎ Comments / Actions (What, where, who, when)
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	

35. Can the dead stock collection area be cleaned and disinfected?

Carcasses usually leak body fluid which contains viruses and bacteria that can cause illness in both people and animals. If the area where carcasses are stored can be cleaned and disinfected this minimises the chance of illness, and it is important that this area is cleaned regularly.

✓ Yes	✗ No	✎ Comments / Actions (What, where, who, when)
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	

36. Are carcasses collected promptly?

Prompt collection of carcasses will minimise the risk of spread of disease and limit attractiveness of the area to vermin.

✓ Yes	✗ No	✎ Comments / Actions (What, where, who, when)
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	

37. Are cleansings and other biological waste disposed of promptly and in a secure area?

Cleansings and other biological waste are a potential source of infection for both animals and people. They should be disposed of as soon as possible and in a manner that limits exposure for other animals and the people on farm, for example in an offal hole or by burying.

✓ Yes	✗ No	✎ Comments / Actions (What, where, who, when)
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	

Manure and slurry

38. Do you own slurry spreading equipment that is shared with other farms or do you use slurry spreading equipment from other farms?

Slurry contains faecal material and urine, which can contain disease-causing bacteria, viruses and weed seeds. Sharing slurry spreading equipment with other farms without proper cleaning can spread diseases and weeds from one farm to another. Slurry spreading equipment should be cleaned if it moves between farms.

✓ Yes	✗ No	✎ Comments / Actions (What, where, who, when)
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	

39. Do you spray effluent behind the rotation and allow 10-14 days of sunshine before allowing stock access?

Freshly spread manure and effluent may contain bacteria and viruses that cause disease. It is good practice to spray effluent behind the rotation and keep animals away from areas where this has been spread for at least 10 – 14 sunny days. Over time the effect of drying, heat and sunlight will reduce the number of bacteria and viruses surviving in manure and effluent, and minimise the risk to animals grazing these areas.

✓ Yes	✗ No	✎ Comments / Actions (What, where, who, when)
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	

40. Is calf shed manure spread on paddocks?

Calf shed manure is likely to contain high levels of disease-causing bacteria and viruses, especially if there has been an outbreak of disease in the calf sheds. It may be better to spread this in areas where animal don't graze such as under hedge lines, or to compost it prior to spreading.

✓ Yes	✗ No	✎ Comments / Actions (What, where, who, when)
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	



Feed

41. Do you purchase any additional feed that is brought onto the farm?

Feed sourced from elsewhere can contain seeds of weeds not currently on your farm. It is a good idea to understand the weed status of properties from where additional feed is sought. This can be done by talking to the grower and/or visiting the property.

✓ Yes

☐

✗ No

☐

Comments / Actions (What, where, who, when)

42. Do you buy feed from a reputable source?

If you buy feed from a reputable source, you can have more confidence that the information provided about the feed (e.g. harvest location, weed contamination risk) is correct. A reputable source should be happy to answer any queries you may have about the feed.

✓ Yes

☐

✗ No

☐

Comments / Actions (What, where, who, when)



Wildlife and other animals

43. Do you have an effective vermin control programme?

Vermin, such as rodents and birds, can carry disease. For example, rodents can spread leptospirosis and birds can spread Salmonella. Limiting the number of vermin on the farm will reduce the risk of disease in both animals and people. You can do this by setting up a vermin control programme for your farm.

✓ Yes	✗ No	✎ Comments / Actions (What, where, who, when)
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	

44. Do you have feral animals on your farm?

Feral animals such as possums, mustelids (stoats and ferrets), deer and pigs can harbour diseases that affect cattle. The main concern is tuberculosis; however, they can transmit other diseases and therefore pose a risk to animal health on your farm.

✓ Yes	✗ No	✎ Comments / Actions (What, where, who, when)
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	

45. Do you ensure feed is stored securely from birds and vermin?

Stored feed is an attractive food source for vermin. Urine and faeces from these animals can carry bacteria and viruses that could cause disease in both animals and people. Minimising access to feed stores by birds and rodents will reduce this risk. Consider covering feed that is kept outside or in a store with other equipment. Where you have a dedicated indoor feed storage facility keep the doors closed and block off windows and gaps with bird netting.

✓ Yes	✗ No	✎ Comments / Actions (What, where, who, when)
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	

46. Have you removed debris from around sheds and buildings to reduce vermin breeding grounds?

Vermin like sheltered sites for breeding. Long grass or vegetation, and miscellaneous unused equipment and materials lying around provide ideal habitats. Keeping the areas around buildings free from clutter and long grass will limit the number of vermin entering buildings, feed stores and animal areas. Storage areas should be kept clean and tidy.

✓ Yes	✗ No	✎ Comments / Actions (What, where, who, when)
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	



47. Do you have a biosecurity training programme for your staff?

Ensuring that staff understand your farm biosecurity policy, and the reasons for having it, is important to ensure that the policy is implemented. As with other farm policies, staff need training for awareness and understanding. For a farm biosecurity policy to be effective all people on farm need to understand and apply the policy.

✓ Yes	✗ No	✎ Comments / Actions (What, where, who, when)
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	

48. Do you have a plan for a major biosecurity outbreak in New Zealand?

A major biosecurity outbreak will almost certainly involve a need for increased disease control practices on farm (such as limiting visitors, gate security and animal health monitoring), and a restriction on the movement of animals to other farms, sale yards and meat processors. Being prepared to implement additional biosecurity procedures quickly, and manage restrictions on the movement of animals, will help the overall countrywide response to the outbreak. (Provide link to exotic animal disease information sheet).

✓ Yes	✗ No	✎ Comments / Actions (What, where, who, when)
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	

49. Do you and your staff know how to monitor for new diseases, pests or weeds?

The following may indicate a new, emerging, or even exotic disease, pest or weed in your herd or on your farm:

- An unusual number of sick or lame animals
- Animals with unusual symptoms or a combination of symptoms not usually seen
- Sick animals not responding to standard treatment
- An unexpected drop in performance eg milk yield
- Unexpectedly poor reproductive performance
- 'New' types of plants growing on the property or existing weeds rapidly increasing in extent
- Damage caused to pasture or crops by pests.

New diseases can spread rapidly through your herd and your veterinarian may be seeing similar problems on other farms in your area. Seeking the advice of your veterinarian early will help diagnose the problem and minimise the animal health and economic impacts to your farm.

For weeds, regional councils are able to offer advice and information to help landowners identify and control a wide range of pest plants.

✓ Yes	✗ No	✎ Comments / Actions (What, where, who, when)
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	

50. Do you know who to call if you suspect an exotic or new disease is affecting your cattle?

If you suspect an exotic or new disease in your cattle you should call your veterinarian or the MPI exotic disease and pest reporting number, **0800 80 99 66**, as soon as possible. The contact details for your veterinarian and the MPI 0800 number should be readily available for staff.

✓ Yes	✗ No	✎ Comments / Actions (What, where, who, when)
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	

51. Do you know who to contact if you see a new or unwanted weed on your land?

If you suspect a new or unwanted weed on your farm you should contact your regional council or the MPI exotic disease and pest reporting number, **0800 80 99 66**, as soon as possible. The contact details for the regional council and the MPI 0800 number should be readily available for staff.

✓ Yes	✗ No	✎ Comments / Actions (What, where, who, when)
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	

52. Are you aware of local pest plant regulations and initiatives led through your regional council?

Being aware of local pest plant regulations and initiatives could enable you to receive support and advice on management of these pest plants if they are present on your farm. Generally, this support and advice is free.

✓ Yes	✗ No	✎ Comments / Actions (What, where, who, when)
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	



Farm Biosecurity Health Check Action Plan

Fill out this plan with the actions you have come up with from going through the health check



Action	When	Who