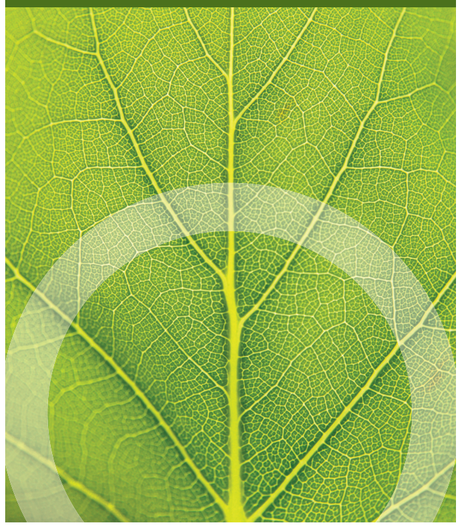
Canadian Food Inspection Agency | Agence canadienne d'inspection des aliments

Plant Biosecurity

Farm-Level Plant Biosecurity

Protecting Plant Resources



Growing Forward
A federal-provincial-territorial initiative

Canada

Good biosecurity practices are more important today than ever before. The intensive nature of today's farm operations combined with increasing worldwide trade and travel heightens the risk of exposure to pests and diseases. You can help protect your operation and Canada's plant resources by improving biosecurity practices on your farm.

What is farm-level plant biosecurity?

Farm-level plant biosecurity is a series of management practices designed to prevent or minimize the following:

- the introduction of pests onto a farm
- the spread of these pests within a farm operation
- the spread of pests beyond the farm

Why is farm-level plant biosecurity important?

Farm-level biosecurity is important because it helps protect plants from diseases and pests. Healthy plants and crops are vital to the sustainability and profitability of the Canadian agricultural sector. Experience has shown it is easier and more economical to prevent pests from being introduced rather than controlling or eradicating an introduced or well-established pest. Farm-level biosecurity can help do the following:

- improve or maintain biodiversity and plant productivity
- reduce the potential for increased operational costs or decreased revenue associated with pests or diseases
- protect domestic and export markets
- maintain or enhance the value of farmland

Where do I start?

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) offers a farm-level biosecurity planning guide for producers. This guide is a reference tool for good biosecurity practices on the farm.

Biosecurity plans can also be developed by working with plant specialists and consultants. You can also consult your provincial department of agriculture. Consider the following when developing your biosecurity plan:

- Determine what pest(s) or diseases may put your operation at risk.
- Evaluate how pests can enter, exit and spread within your farm operation.
- Identify measures to help you manage and minimize pest risks.

What measures should I put in place?

Make good biosecurity measures part of your daily routine. It is worthwhile to invest in developing a biosecurity plan designed for your operation. Here are some examples of practices that could make up an effective biosecurity plan.

- Set up secure zones with controlled access for vehicle and foot traffic.
- Clean and disinfect equipment, people and vehicles before entering a secure zone.
- Control where equipment, people and vehicles go on the farm.
- Implement a crop rotation and pest surveillance plan.
- Inform and train family, staff, service sector workers and other visitors of your biosecurity measures.
- Use certified seed and pest-tolerant varieties, where appropriate to help minimize risks.
- Use modern methods and tools (biological, chemical and physical) to control and eradicate pests and diseases.

Who is responsible for farm-level biosecurity?

Healthy plants are everyone's responsibility. Everyone involved in plant production has a role in biosecurity. This includes producers, farm managers, farm workers, private specialists and provincial and federal governments. On-farm biosecurity works best when it is applied on all farms, so encourage everyone in your industry to be involved. One infested site can close borders and have severe adverse effects on the entire agricultural sector.

Where can I find out more about farm-level biosecurity?

Across Canada, federal and provincial governments are working together with industry and academia to develop national farm-level biosecurity standards for several plant sectors. You are encouraged to use these standards to develop your farm – or site-specific plant biosecurity plans.

For more information on farm-level plant biosecurity please visit

www.inspection.gc.ca

Control Pest Pathways Through On-Farm Biosecurity

Who...	What...	How...
...is responsible for On-Farm Biosecurity	...are the most common pest pathways	...do you control pest pathways
• **Producers** • **Farm Managers** • **Farm Workers** • **Private Specialists** • **Provincial and Federal Governments**	• **Vehicles and Equipment** • **Seeds and Seedlings** • **Employees and Visitors** • **Wind** • **Non-Agricultural Machinery** • **Manure/Compost/Soil** • **Irrigation Water** • **Adjacent Farm Units** • **Wildlife**	• **Risk Assessment** • **Biosecurity Plan** • **Best Practices** • **Continuous Improvement**

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