

Biosecurity

Help protect the health of livestock and crops



New and existing pests and diseases can have a devastating impact on both our natural and agro-ecosystems. We can all take steps to limit human impact on the spread of noxious weeds, disease and insects.

The best defense to reduce pest and disease outbreaks is to set up good biosecurity measures.

Manitoba Agriculture continues to work with farmers, other government departments, Crown corporations, industry and outside agencies to develop and promote realistic and effective biosecurity protocols that protect agricultural crop, livestock and poultry farms.

Biosecurity protocols supported by Manitoba Agriculture have helped limit the impact of significant livestock diseases such as Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea and Avian Influenza and are important for reducing the impact of crop pests such as Bacterial Ring Rot, Clubroot and Verticillium Wilt.

Biosecurity guidelines

As farmers and the industry become more aware of the importance of biosecurity, many sectors have developed standards for farmers and service providers to use. It is essential for employees of government and non-government agencies to use effective biosecurity practices to protect the animals and crops they visit.

Biosecurity and pest management practices are designed to:

- **Prevent** – recognize potential pests and diseases and how and where they can enter a farm
- **Minimize** – reduce the spread or increase of pests or diseases currently on a farm
- **Control** – apply effective and timely measures
- **Communicate** – risks, strategies and protocols for specific pest and disease management

Farmers are responsible for their operations, but others working or visiting agricultural lands have responsibilities to limit the spread of noxious weeds, diseases and pests. Guidelines for both sectors are available online:

- Livestock: www.manitoba.ca/agriculture/animals/animal-health/biosecurity-in-livestock-production.html
- Crops: www.manitoba.ca/agriculture/crops/biosecurity.html

Staff across government have implemented biosecurity protocols to limit the spread of pests and diseases. Protocols are updated as new information becomes available.

For more information

- Livestock biosecurity: contact Manitoba Agriculture at 204-794-9816.
- Crop biosecurity: contact Manitoba Agriculture at 204-745-5660.