

# Vegetable ~~Matters of~~ Fact

Number 34  
June  
2006



POTATO

## Farm Biosecurity

Biosecurity measures are designed to protect crops from pests, diseases and weeds. Experience shows that good levels of farm hygiene are needed to prevent the introduction, spread and impact of serious plant pests, diseases and weeds.

International and domestic border controls provide a first line of defence that give growers time to prepare their on-farm control measures.

Biosecurity measures will improve the opportunity for an industry to retain market access in the event of a pest or disease outbreak.

### “PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE”

- **ASSESS** the risks and consequences of pests and diseases to your business.
- **BE AWARE** of your legal requirements.
- **DECIDE** on your biosecurity values and **WRITE** them down.
- **NOTIFY** regular contractors and visitors of your requirements.
- **SIGNS** will remind visitors of **YOUR** requirements.

#### FIRST STEPS

Reduce the risk of spreading harmful pests and diseases spreading to your farm :

- Use **clean seed** from crops certified free of pests, diseases and weeds.
- Control the movement of **machinery and visitors** on your farm.
- Control **volunteer potatoes** and related weeds.
- **Record** known affected areas.



Spotted anything  
unusual?

If you spot anything unusual on your crop, check it out and call the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881

LOOK. BE ALERT. CALL AN EXPERT. **1800 084 881**



# Clean up or get cleaned out



Biosecurity measures reduce the risk of potato pests and diseases spreading to your farm.

## Reducing the Risks

### Weeds and Self-sown potatoes

- Source fodder from weed-free properties.
- ✓ Regularly check stockyards for new weeds.
- ✓ Know your weeds and lookout for new ones.
- ✓ Work with neighbours to reduce weed spread.
- ✓ Keep access roads and yards weed-free.
- ✓ Control weeds before they set seed.
- ✓ Set up a wash down area and check it for weeds.

### Potato pests and diseases

- Only use certified seed.
- ✓ Work clean areas before known affected areas.
- ✓ Reduce runoff and erosion from diseased areas.
- ✓ Fence off contaminated areas and sow to pasture.
- ✓ Dispose of crop residues promptly.

### Machinery and equipment

- Cut vehicle movement in crops, avoid wet ground.
- ✓ Hose off machinery before moving to a new field.
- ✓ Check tools & boots are clean before field use.
- ✓ The same rules apply to contractors equipment.

The entry of potatoes or used potato machinery into **Potato Protection Districts** is subject to prescribed conditions. Failure to comply with these conditions can result in prosecution and fines.

## Potato Industry Biosecurity Plans

In Victoria, the VFF Potato Growers Council and VICSPA have already developed biosecurity plans which identify key threats to productivity, sustainability and market access.

A national potato industry biosecurity plan is being developed by Plant Health Australia for serious potato pest threats.

The plan involves identifying the risk of these threats impacting on our industry and developing ways of minimising these risks.

You should read these plans and adopt those parts relevant to your business.

For more information on the National Potato Industry Biosecurity Plan please contact:



02 6260 4322

or visit [www.planthealthaustralia.com.au](http://www.planthealthaustralia.com.au)

**CLEAN FARM PRACTICE  
=  
CLEAN FARM PRODUCE**

PLEASE HELP US  
BY NOT INTRODUCING SOIL  
FROM OTHER AREAS VIA:

- Bins
- Pallets
- Machinery
- Clothing & Footwear

We aim to produce clean, quality produce.  
Your co-operation will help.

### The following sources have been used in the preparation of this factsheet

- Turner, R. (2005) "The Potato Industry and Biosecurity", Potatoes Australia 16, 50-51, 2005
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- WAQIS (2003) "Practical farm biosecurity advice for the plant industries" FN 41/2003, [www.agric.wa.gov.au](http://www.agric.wa.gov.au)
- VICSPA (2005) "Seed Potato Hygiene Protocol", [www.vicspa.org.au](http://www.vicspa.org.au)

### DPI-Plant Standards Branch

<b>Bairnsdale</b> 5152 0600	<b>Benalla</b> 5761 1611
<b>Bendigo</b> 5430 4444	<b>Colac</b> 5233 5504
<b>Footscray</b> 8371 3500	<b>Knoxfield</b> 9210 9390
<b>Mildura</b> 5051 4500	<b>Swan Hill</b> 5036 4800
<b>Tatura</b> 5833 5222	<b>Wodonga</b> 6043 7900
<b>Or contact your local Vegcheque Officer</b>	
Colac 5233 5504	Ellinbank 5624 2222
Knoxfield 9210 9222	Bairnsdale 5152 0600
Mildura 5051 4500	

Vegetable Matters-of-Fact is published as part of DPI's VegCheque extension program. **Editor: Rob Dimsey T: 03 5152 0600**  
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