



UNDERTAKING A BIOSECURITY RISK ASSESSMENT

RISK ASSESSMENT IS AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF BIOSECURITY MANAGEMENT.

A biosecurity risk assessment is the identification of a hazard (biosecurity risk) then considering what could happen (consequence) and what the chances of this occurring are (likelihood) to determine the hazards overall biosecurity risk rating.

Risk assessment can help determine:

- How severe the risk is
- Whether any existing control measures are effective
- What action you can take to control the risk
- How urgently action needs to be taken.

COMPLETE A BIOSECURITY RISK ASSESSMENT IN 5 STEPS

Once you have worked through the biosecurity management plan template and outlined the recommended practices and additional practices/procedures that are in place or used on your feedlot, use this factsheet to help you identify if a biosecurity risk exists on your feedlot.

STEP 1 Identify the risks

Start with each biosecurity risk identified in column 1 of the biosecurity management plan template and consider the consequences outlined in table 1 (page 2) of introducing a pest or disease into the feedlot. In most instances the consequences will be moderate - high without interventions.

STEP 2 Identified the likelihood

Step 2 will assess the likelihood or probability that the risks identified in step 1, will still occur after your own biosecurity practices have been applied. For each of the identified risks, consider the likelihood that the individual risk will occur.

STEP 3 Identifying risk rating

This step will determine the risk rating of the biosecurity risk by taking into consideration the consequences and the likelihood levels determined in steps 2 and 3.

The determined likelihood and consequence are put into a matrix.

Using table 2 (page 2), determine a risk rating for each of the identified risks.

STEP 4 Record your biosecurity risk rating

In the column titled "risk rating" record your overall biosecurity risk rating score. Complete this for each risk individually within the biosecurity management plan.

STEP 5 Implementing Best Biosecurity Practice

Where you have identified that the biosecurity risk rating for a specific biosecurity risk remains moderate to high you should consider additional biosecurity mitigation controls that could be put in place to reduce or mitigate the risk.

Risk mitigation may include:

- **Risk avoidance:** implementing best biosecurity practices to avoid the risk from occurring
- **Risk reduction:** implementing one or more biosecurity practices to reduce the likelihood or the impact of the risk
- **Risk transfer:** transferring the risk to another party or outsourcing the activity
- **Risk acceptance:** acknowledge the risk and choose to not take any action

SCENARIO

Paul, the manager of BeefedUp Feedlot, is considering the biosecurity risks associated with moving new cattle into the feedlot.

Paul considers any loss of production, income or damage to his feedlots reputation to be **high** as it could take months or years to recover from these events.

The feedlots current practices include a vaccination program during backgrounding and ongoing monitoring of newly purchased livestock to ensure that the likelihood of disease introduction is **unlikely**.

Paul further identifies that the combined overall risk rating as **medium** and lists this under the risk rating section of the Feedlots biosecurity management plan.

Medium risk requires **active management**, and Paul considers the feedlots practices to be sound enough that they accept this risk and move to the next column.

As Paul works through the biosecurity management plan, he identifies other areas that are considered to be high risk and applies some of the recommended practices to reduce the likelihood of the risk from occurring. Where the recommended practices listed in column 2 do not suit the feedlots operations, Paul records what they do instead to manage a risk. When a risk does not apply, the feedlot manager describes why it does not exist to the feedlot.

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TABLE 1: CONSEQUENCES

Using the Consequence table below - the **highest** rated category is your **overall consequence** rating.

Risk	Animal Health and Production	Human Health and Safety	Industry Market Access	Commercial	Environmental	Reputation and image
High	Significant illness, injuries or deaths	Significant public health risk and or human death / long lasting wellbeing impact	Major national economical trade (international or national market impact, disruption or loss)	High financial losses	Irreversible environmental impact	Long term /national or international damage to reputation or image
Medium	Some illness, injuries and deaths	Medium public health risk and or injuries with wellbeing impact	Widespread trade impact, disruption or loss across multiple properties or multiple industries within the state	Medium financial loss	Medium, medium term, medium spread environmental impact	Medium term / regional damage to reputation or image.
Low	Limited illness, injuries or deaths	Limited public health risk and or injuries requiring medical treatment	A single enterprise is affected / markets are restricted	Low financial loss	Minor / recoverable or short term, isolated / localised environmental impact	Recoverable / short term damage to reputation or image.

TABLE 2: ASSESSING LIKELIHOOD

In this example, the likelihood of risk occurring is **Unlikely**.

LIKELIHOOD	Very Likely	Occurs frequently
	Likely	Has occurred before, will occur again
	Possible	Possible to occur but not common
	Unlikely	Could occur but not likely
	Very Unlikely	Has never occurred before and is unlikely to occur

TABLE 4: RISK RESPONSE

Using the reading in the Risk Matrix - for this example the likelihood of risk is **Medium** and the response would be **Active Management**.

Level of risk rating	Response
High	Urgent Attention
Medium	Active Management
Low	Acceptable Risk

TABLE 3: RISK MATRIX

Using the Risk Matrix - compare your consequence rating to the likelihood of that risk occurring to find your overall risk rating.

LIKELIHOOD		Low	Medium	High
	Very Likely	Medium	Medium	High
	Likely	Low	Medium	High
	Possible	Low	Low	Medium
	Unlikely	Low	Low	Medium
	Very Unlikely	Low	Low	Low

TABLE 5: YOUR BIOSECURITY PLAN

Record the risk rating in your Biosecurity Plan.

Biosecurity Risk	Recommended Practices	Additional Practices	Risk Rating
_____	_____	_____	Medium
_____	_____	_____	
_____	_____	_____	
_____	_____	_____	
_____	_____	_____	