



FEEDLOT ZONING ADVICE

Feedlot biosecurity zoning is a risk-based principle that utilises the division of the feedlot into two separate biosecurity management areas (hot zone and cold zone) to allow the feedlot to protect their livestock from biosecurity risks by managing a smaller and more defensible area.

Most contagious animal diseases are spread via direct or indirect contact with infected livestock and are preventable by either disinfecting equipment to kill the pathogen or using distance to exclude the pathogen from transmitting to the host.

The advantages of implementing zoning on feedlots are:

- Preventing disease transmission via a risk-based approach
- Cost effective usage of chemicals
- Safe chemical usage
- Protecting both animals and the environment
- Promoting safe work environments for staff and people

FEEDLOT ZONES

Zone	Risk	Commonly included areas	Recommended Biosecurity Action
Cold Zone	Low	Areas adjoining or adjacent to the feedlot still considered to be the feedlot but less critical to daily business operations. These areas may include visitor car parks, irrigation areas, staff housing, outhouses, backgrounding paddocks.	Utilise designated car park. Implement record keeping.
Hot Zone	High	Production areas. These areas may include sheds, silos, weighbridges, feedlot pens, laneways, bunkers and troughs, effluent ponds, manure stockpiles, dead animal pits, composting areas.	Restrict access to staff and required service providers only to this zone. Hygiene and biosecurity risk assessments apply to this area. Decontamination stations apply to this area.

TIPS FOR FEEDLOT ZONING

Each feedlot is different and some will have a more challenging layout than others.

An example of a simple way to zone a feedlot is below:



HOW TO ZONE YOUR FEEDLOT

1. Start with a map of your feedlot.
2. Identify commonly used areas on your map such as the office, feed storage, livestock pens and identify how much daily traffic happens between each of these areas to maintain feedlot operations.
3. Consider where you might divide the feedlot into 2 separate zones on your map first. The zones do not have to be the same shape or size on the map.
4. The hot zone (the designated area) should:
 - a. Include all or most areas that are required to maintain daily feedlot operations.
 - b. Be secure or able to be secured from preventable diseases (e.g. animal proof)
 - c. Consider all biosecurity risks.
 - d. Should have a buffer around its perimeter of at least 50m from other animals.
5. Consider how you might communicate these zones to others. This could be by providing visitors with a map or utilising signage.
6. Before making final decisions and installing new infrastructure, temporary zoning should be utilised so that zones may be adapted until they are functional.
7. Once zoning is in place, consider how you might include biosecurity hygiene to reduce the risk of disease introduction onto the feedlot during an EAD. This may include washdown areas or footbaths as well as decontamination stations between the cold and hot zone.