

Is your field day a biosecurity risk?



While field days and on-site trials are very useful for growers, these events can also be the perfect occasion to spread unwanted plant pests.

Bringing producers together risks:

- Introducing an unwanted pest to the field site.
- Spreading a pest back to attendee's properties.
- Spreading a pest throughout the district and potentially further.

Managing these risks can be simple, safeguarding all involved in hosting and attending field days.

TOP 10 BIOSECURITY TIPS FOR FIELD DAYS

1. Include a biosecurity message in notices about the event.

Add a sentence saying "Be biosecurity aware - make sure that all vehicles and boots arrive at the location clean and free of soil."



2. Ensure that all vehicles are parked in a designated area.

This will assist in containing the spread of a new pest and make monitoring for new pests much easier.

3. Use a bus for transport to field sites.

This reduces the risks that many vehicles would pose.

4. Incorporate boot scrapers and foot baths at site access points.

These can be located either at the entry to the property, or prior to getting on a bus.

5. Have hand sanitiser available for use.

6. Register all attendees.

This facilitates trace forward/trace back in the event of introduction of an unwanted pest, particularly an exotic plant pest.

7. Ensure the field site has biosecurity signage.

Signs can remind attendees of the importance of biosecurity and requirements at the site.

8. Ensure that caterers, trade and industry representatives and hire staff erecting marquees comply with field day hygiene guidelines.

9. On the day, remind attendees of the risks and encourage good farm biosecurity practice.

10. Monitor the car park and trial site area for any new pests for up to a year after the event.

New pests can take a while to show up and your obligation to the site doesn't end at the field day.

PEST

Refers to all insect, mite, snail, nematode, pathogens (diseases) and weeds that can damage plants or plant products.

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FOOT BATHS

Foot baths are a useful and inexpensive method to clean footwear before entering and exiting a field day site. Alternatively, attendees can be given boot coveralls such as heavy duty surgical theatre boots, which are inexpensive and a good alternative in muddy conditions.

Materials

- two heavy duty plastic containers
- water
- heavy duty scrubbing brushes and scraping tools such as a horse pick or screwdriver
- registered decontaminant
- drying material: clean, porous, non-slip surface such as hessian bags, rubber mat, towels
- tarp.

Basic foot bath set up

1. On a flat surface set up each foot bath station as demonstrated in the image below.
2. Fill the first foot bath with clean water.
3. Provide scrubbing brushes and scraping tools to use in the first foot bath to remove as much loose soil and plant material as possible.
4. Lay drying material between the two foot baths and after the second. Feet should be dried before and after the second foot bath.
5. Fill the second foot bath with a registered decontaminant following label instructions.



What do you risk by not considering farm biosecurity?

- Introducing a new pest to an area with associated control and management issues (possibly long term).
- Future reluctance of farmers to host field days.
- Reduced attendance at field days.
- Reputation damage for your business or yourself.
- Failing to take on responsibility and 'duty of care'.

Be biosecurity aware when attending or hosting a field day.

For assistance in creating a biosecurity plan to reduce risk and sourcing equipment or material to mitigate these risks, contact your state Grains Biosecurity Officer. Go to grainsbiosecurity.com.au for more information.

**If you see anything unusual,
call the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline**

**EXOTIC PLANT PEST HOTLINE
1800 084 881**

For a full list of Grains Biosecurity Officers in your region, visit grainsbiosecurity.com.au/contact

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