

February 2018

Damn these flies!

Growers of fruit and vegetables that can be hosts of fruit fly – in particular Mediterranean and Queensland fruit fly – are reminded of the need to be vigilant when it comes to control of the pest year round.

Darryl Barbour, National Manager of the Fruit Fly Council, said it's important to follow biosecurity rules and not give fruit flies a free ride interstate or into pest free areas.

"Fruit flies only fly short distances, typically less than two kilometres. If they are found interstate it's because they've somehow been given a free ride."

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Big bucks in rangeland goats, but what about biosecurity?



Mustering rangeland goats has become an important source of income for many producers, fueled by a rising international demand for goat meat and a handy rise in prices over the last decade.

However, producers should exercise caution when rounding up and selling a mob, according to Animal Health Australia's Senior Manager Biosecurity, Dr Rob Barwell.

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(Photo: Arthur Mostead)

Top 10 tips to improve biosecurity at harvest time

Harvest is usually the season when extra activity on your property can create additional biosecurity risks for your farm.

According to Rod Turner, General Manager, Preparedness and R&D at Plant Health Australia, every movement onto your farm risks bringing in hitchhiking pests and weeds.

“Luckily all of these extra risks at harvest time can be reduced with on-farm biosecurity measures.”

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Don't let your biosecurity plan go to the dogs



Feral animals are a fact of life on the land and many producers understand the threat of livestock predation, destruction of crops or damage to farm infrastructure. Compared to these risks, the human and animal health impacts of feral animals are often overlooked, though the threat is just as pressing.

Research indicates that wild dogs, for example, can live comfortably within a kilometre of urban and suburban centres, sparking concerns for livestock in 'peri-urban' regions (i.e. production areas on the fringes of urbanised land) and by extension domestic pets, with further implications for human health.

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Checks and balance

Prevention is always better than cure at David Nix's Atherton Tablelands farm. After all, the arrival of an unwanted pest or disease can instantly devastate the far-north Queensland potato grower's livelihood – together with those of his neighbours, and regional and state colleagues if quarantine restrictions are imposed.

That threat looms large every day, David says, with tomato potato psyllid (TPP), fire ants, fruit flies and golden cyst nematode among the pests he wants to avoid at all costs.

Therefore, maintaining strict biosecurity practices is essential for growers to play their part in protecting Australia from exotic pests that could impact productivity, the national economy and our way of life.

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Get moving – recording movements on the NLIS database



Bonnie Skinner, Manager Biosecurity & Extension, Livestock Biosecurity Network

The reliability of our traceability system is dependent upon the accuracy and completeness of livestock identification and movement data. Producers and supply chain participants have a responsibility to ensure livestock movements are recorded promptly and correctly.

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Vintage toolkit released

Keeping your vines safe during vintage – and all through the season – is vital. To make life easier, Vinehealth Australia has created a **vintage toolkit**, full of free tools focused on best practice farm-gate hygiene.

Vinehealth has also launched a Wine Tourism Biosecurity Program. They are offering biosecurity training for cellar door staff. **For more information and to sign up for training go here.**

Racehorses unaffected by Hendra vaccination: study

An extensive study for the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission published in the Australian Veterinary Journal last week demonstrates that vaccinating against Hendra virus does not reduce racing performance.

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Feral pig control boosted to save banana industry from panama disease.

Feral pig control in Far North Queensland will be bolstered in a bid to save Queensland's \$600 million banana industry from panama disease.

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Time's running out to have your say on poultry welfare standards

There's just two weeks remaining for the community and interested parties to have their say on the draft Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Poultry and the associated Regulation Impact Statement.

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Do you know where your roses came from this Valentine's Day?

Australia has imported a record number of roses in the lead up to Valentine's Day, with more than 10.5 million

Have your say on the future national management of Ovine Johne's Disease

WoolProducers Australia and Sheep Producers Australia are seeking feedback from

Queensland Strawberries launches education campaign after fruit fly larvae biosecurity breaches

The Queensland Strawberry Growers Association has

rose stems brought into the country in the last two weeks. Figures from the Federal Department of Agriculture show the vast majority of imported roses were sourced from Kenya.

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the sheep and wool industry on the future management of OJD, with the National Ovine Johne's Disease Management Plan due to finish in 2018.

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launched a fruit fly awareness campaign to educate farmers about the pest threat after larvae was found on two separate occasions in fruit sent to South Australia.

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Upcoming: Exercise Border Bridge

Exercise Border Bridge is an exercise program that will assess how New South Wales and Queensland can respond to a biosecurity incident occurring across both jurisdictions. The scenario will be based on a pest and disease incursion – one which affects livestock and the other will be a threat to plant production industries.

[Read more](#)

Meet Phil, the hitch-hiking phylloxera

A major regionalised pest of grape vines is phylloxera and Vinehealth Australia has recently released a video for visitors to vineyards about its hitchhiking habits and the biosecurity risks they pose for growers.

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