

Poultry farmer

Biosecurity on farms during research

Research is a crucial component of improving the ability of the industry to protect its operations but to also make advances in Australian poultry production. Research undertaken as field trials on farm is an ideal way to ensure the research is relevant to how industry operates.

At no time should research conducted on farm compromise your biosecurity responsibilities, the health and welfare of the flocks on site, or compromise future flocks by contaminating the biosecure production area.

You must be comfortable with the research being undertaken, the data being collected and the ability of the researchers to undertake the research without compromising the site biosecurity and company biosecurity requirements. There may be some circumstances where a formal agreement may be necessary to protect your business and the poultry.

Before researchers come onto your site

- Provide the researchers with a clear outline of their responsibilities including any company designated quarantine periods between farm visits, international travel and contact with other avian species or pigs
- If necessary, provide researchers with a site map which clearly outlines where to park, where the site office is, who the main contact is (and contact details) and which areas of the farm the researchers are allowed access to (including amenities)
- Outline requirements for personnel, vehicle and equipment cleanliness standards
- If a formal agreement is required, ensure this is finalised prior to allowing researchers on site.

When researchers are on site

Ensure researchers are accompanied by relevant trained farm staff at all times when they are on site.

When researchers leave the site

Ensure researchers remove any equipment, rubbish or other components brought on site at the completion of the trial.



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Researcher Biosecurity on farms during research

Before coming on site

- Talk to the poultry company about the specifics of the research to be conducted and what access you require; there should be no surprises for the farmer or the company about what access you require and what data is being collected
- Formal agreements may be required
- Ensure you have a vehicle biosecurity kit (see below)
- You must notify the farmer or manager of when you plan to visit the property, regardless of whether you are collecting data from the outside of, or entering, the biosecure production area
- No contact with poultry, birds or pigs 48 hours prior to entering the farm
- Visit the [Farm Biosecurity website](#) and make yourself aware of your industry biosecurity manual

When on site

- Provide notification to the farmer or manager when you arrive on site. If entering the property, you should be escorted by a farm or company representative for the duration of your visit
- Obey instructions from farm staff at all times
- Use designated parking
- Only use designated road ways and walkways

After you leave the site

- Ensure you remove everything that was brought on site. If something is not accounted for, inform the farm manager. There is a risk that if something is ingested by the poultry it will compromise the health of the poultry and/or the safety of processing

- Ensure your car and equipment that has been on site is thoroughly cleaned
- Don't come in to contact with poultry or avian species within 24 hours of visiting a poultry farm
- Ensure policies and state quarantine regulations are followed to deal with analysis and disposal of biosecurity matter (which includes poultry and litter samples), particularly if moving between states

Vehicle biosecurity kit

A vehicle biosecurity kit may include: gloves, hand sanitiser, disposable coveralls, good quality plastic boot covers, disinfectant wipes. Additionally, dust masks (Level P2 dust and odour) and garbage bags

What do researchers risk by not considering farm biosecurity?

- Introducing a pest, disease or bacteria (including antimicrobial resistant bacteria) to a poultry flock, along with the possible long-term control and management issues
- Industry reluctance to take part in future trials
- Industry developing a negative perception of the research organisation
- Breaching their personal biosecurity duty/ obligation which is a requirement under state legislation

Become biosecurity aware when undertaking research – remember you are at the forefront of good biosecurity practice.



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