

Good biosecurity practices can help protect your herd from diseases and pests



We're here to help - **just ask!**

Consult your nearest North Coast LLS District Veterinarian who has the knowledge and experience to assist you to manage all aspects of biosecurity involving your stock. Our focus is:

- emergency disease prevention, preparedness and response
- advisory and diagnostic services
- disease surveillance and reporting
- residue management
- certification
- traceability systems such as NLIS
- regulation

Contact us 1300 795 299

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Need more information on biosecurity?

northcoast.lls.nsw.gov.au
dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity
farmbiosecurity.com.au

Subscribe to our e-newsletters
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Protect your **Cattle** from diseases and pests

North Coast
Local Land Services
can help you



"We all have a role to play in biosecurity and as a producer, your role is vital"

Biosecurity - it's a shared responsibility



Local Land
Services
North Coast

Are you introducing cattle?

There are many diseases that can be introduced “on the back of a truck” with new stock. Before introducing stock, you should make enquiries as to the suitability of the cattle for your needs. Always:

- get a national vendor declaration
- ask for a national cattle health statement which provides information on the disease status and treatment history for the stock
- ensure cattle are identified by a National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) device
- transfer cattle on the NLIS database if purchased directly from another producer. If the cattle are purchased through a saleyard, they will do this for you
- if introducing cattle from the cattle tick zone in Queensland, ensure they meet movement requirements and inspect for ticks on arrival

Introduced stock should be isolated from the rest of the herd for a period of 7-10 days. During this time, cattle should be monitored for any signs of disease; it also provides you with an opportunity to give any vaccinations and drenches that may be required and allows time for weed seeds and worm eggs that they may be carrying in their gut to pass. Your



quarantine area can be monitored for new weed species and these can be dealt with quickly.

As well as being a risk of introducing a new disease, introduced cattle may also be at risk from diseases already on your property. We commonly see problems with **Theileria** in stock introduced from outside the region. Theileriosis is caused by a small red blood cell parasite which can be spread by bush ticks. Cattle which have not previously been exposed to ticks, and hence the parasite, are at risk including:

- abortion
- weight loss
- death

Depending on where the cattle have come from, introduced cattle may also be at risk of insect borne diseases such as Akabane and Three Day Sickness.

Are you selling cattle?

All cattle leaving your property must be identified with an NLIS device and you should complete a national vendor declaration (NVD). If cattle in the consignment have been treated or exposed to chemicals and are still within the withholding period, this must be declared on the NVD.

Poisonous plants

The north coast is home to many plant species that are toxic to stock. You should be aware of what potentially poisonous plants exist on your property.

If you are agisting cattle, you should determine whether there are any poisonous plants on the agistment property. Cattle introduced to unfamiliar plants and hungry cattle are especially susceptible to plant poisonings. Some of the more common toxic plants we see on the north coast are:

- Red Lantana
- Bracken Fern
- Green Cestrum
- Poison Peach
- Mother of Millions
- Fireweed
- Cycads and many others

Vaccinations

Prevention is often much better than treatment and there are many vaccines available for cattle. These offer something of an insurance policy by preventing a disease from occurring.

For some vaccines, the decision is a simple one:

5 in 1 protects against the Clostridial diseases including:

- Blackleg
- Tetanus
- Pulpy Kidney
- Black Disease
- Malignant Oedema

Blackleg in particular is a common cause of death in young cattle on the north coast – the vaccine is relatively inexpensive and very effective – it should be considered a must.

7 in 1 - the leptospirosis component of the 7 in 1 vaccine protects against 2 strains of leptospirosis. Humans can acquire leptospirosis so this vaccine helps protect your health, the health of your workers and your cattle.

Vibrio is a common cause of reproductive failure in cattle on the north coast; we would recommend vaccinating all bulls against vibrio.

For other vaccines, it is worth looking at the likelihood of the disease occurring, the consequence should the disease occur and then weighing this up against the cost of prevention.

A vaccination program should be an integral part of your farm plan.

Stock feed

In Australia, it is illegal to feed animal material such as meat or bone meal, fish or feather meals, to ruminants – this is to help prevent Mad Cow disease. Ensure that products containing restricted animal material, such as pig and poultry feed, are not fed to ruminants.

If you see something unusual, contact the **24 hour emergency animal disease hotline on 1800 675 888**.