



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry

Biosecurity



protect your animals and produce from pests and disease

Biosecurity and Travelling Farm Workers

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Biosecurity and farm workers becomes very important because farm workers move around the country. They might move between properties, they might move between areas, they tend to bring their own equipment, they may be wearing the same clothing moving on properties, they also bring vehicles onto properties. Those alone can possibly bring in pests and diseases.

Biosecurity risks associated with workers who work on multiple farms are largely associated with potentially carrying pests and diseases on pruning equipment, in soil that's attached to their tyres or their clothing and their ability to then transfer it onto another plant.

The simple steps for property owners and workers basically start from a position of being aware, knowing when it's possible for pests and diseases to be spread by people moving into orchards and working in them. Workers reporting to the homestead or office when they first arrive and filling in a sign in sheet that shows where they've come from and where they are going to. Cleaning their equipment, checking socks and boots before leaving a property, particularly looking for those weeds and seeds that stuck into clothing, cleaning their clothes before they leave a property, closing gates, washing and disinfecting hands, cleaning vehicles before moving onto the next property because soil can transmit a lot of pests and diseases. Making sure that tents and swags are also cleaned before they're moved.

Australia is a very big country and the range of pests and diseases it has vary across the country. There are laws in place between various states and territories to prevent the movement of pests and diseases and that means that some plants are actually not permitted to be moved between states, so if you are wanting to move material, it's best to get in contact with your local DPI and they'll tell you what you can and can't do.

For more information on farm biosecurity you can go to the DAFF website www.daff.gov.au/biosecurity or to the specific farm biosecurity site www.farmbiosecurity.com.au.