Biosecurity and surveillance chain of response

Step one → Step two → Step three → Step four

What should I do to prepare?

At a minimum you should have:

1. A current farm biosecurity plan
2. A working relationship with a private vet
3. An easily accessible list of key contacts including for your private vet, government biosecurity officer, and the government biosecurity hotline that is easily accessible

The Emergency Animal Disease Hotline 1800 675 888

4. Regular monitoring of your herd to understand what is their normal behaviour and what is abnormal
5. A systematic approach to recording your observations and other key events related to your animals
6. Compliance with National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) requirements
7. Plenty of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) on hand (check condition as it can perish over time)

What should I do if I notice something unusual?

Observe, assess, record:

First step is to observe and assess the situation and surrounds, to gain information that will assist when you call a professional.

Record these details – take photos and/or notes of condition and/or behaviour of the animal such as:

- notable signs of illness or infection, unusual posture or gait, changed feeding or watering habits, how many animals/herds affected, how long they appear to have been sick or dead, whether introduced or home-bred?

Then seek advice: Phone an animal health professional before proceeding further; call either:

- your local private vet

  Ph: _____
- a government vet or inspector

  Ph: _____
- if you suspect you are dealing with a notifiable or exotic disease, immediately:
  - Call the Emergency Disease Hotline 1800 675 888
  - Restrict the movement of animals to avoid spreading disease and use Personal Protective Equipment to protect yourself.

What can I expect from calling for advice?

A phone call to a professional may enable the vet or biosecurity officer to:

- determine whether the condition is a possible notifiable or exotic disease
- exclude some diseases/conditions based on the information you provide
- advise on safe handling of sick or dead animals
- develop a list of possible differential diagnosis
- determine whether a farm visit is necessary
- determine whether to proceed with a post mortem and/or collection of samples

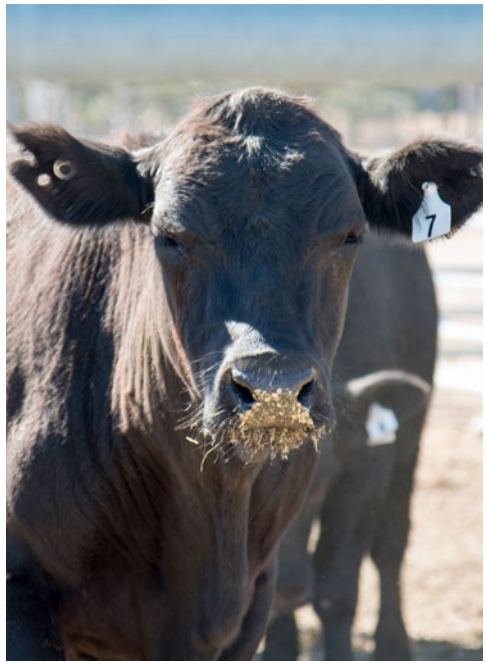
If the disease is confirmed by diagnosis as an exotic or notifiable disease, you will be contacted by your vet or a biosecurity officer who will instruct you on the appropriate actions you must take.

If a non-notifiable disease or other non-notifiable cause (e.g. plant or chemical poisoning) is confirmed, your vet will provide guidance on appropriate treatment and/or necessary actions to protect the rest of your herd.

What support can I get to manage the problem?

Your local private or government vet or biosecurity officer can provide advice on what support you may receive if a notifiable or significant disease is suspected and the best management procedures going forward.

The Federal and State/Territory governments support farmers and private vets for diagnosing and managing notifiable diseases in a range of ways.



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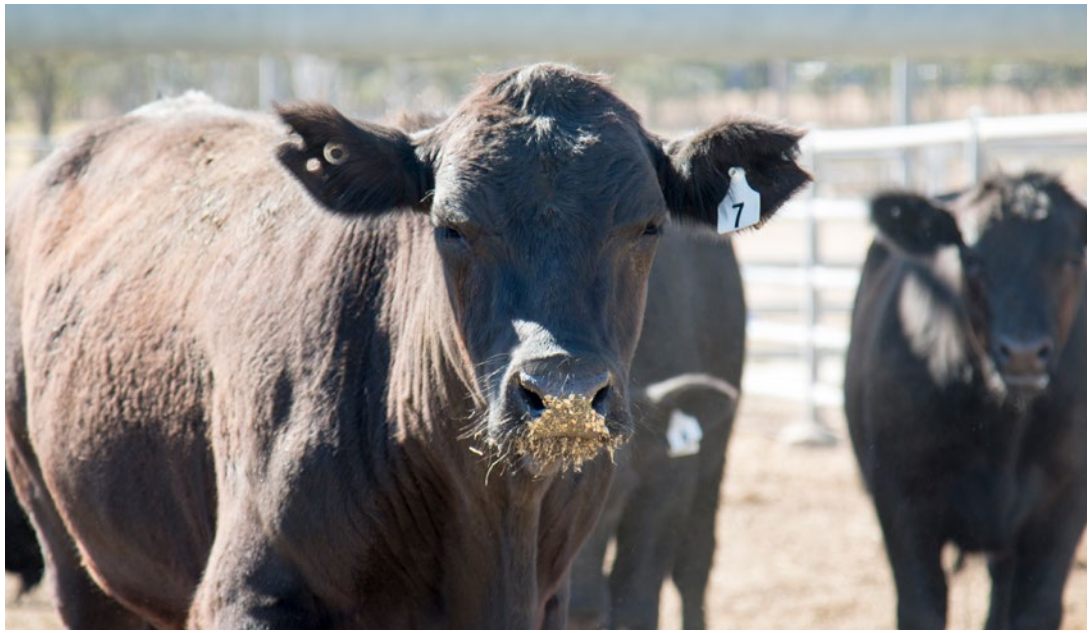

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FMD READY PROJECT

PROJECT PARTNERS

CSIRO

Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

Charles Sturt University

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Australian Dairy Farmers

Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology

ALFA Australian Lot Feeders' Association

Australian Pork

Cattle Council of Australia

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