

Livestock management guidelines

Help reduce the spread of weeds and prevent the establishment of new weed species in the region and state.



These guidelines will help land managers and the community to protect and maintain productive agricultural resources.

Definition

Livestock are defined as domestic animals, such as cattle, sheep or goats, raised for home use or for profit, especially on a farm.

Contaminated Livestock

Section 177 of the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004* prohibits the sale of declared plants and animals and the sale of anything carrying a declared plants including parts of plants such as seeds etc.

Any livestock contaminated with a **declared** plant cannot be sold or transported without the written permission of an authorised officer from the source region and agreement of the authorised officer from the region where the livestock is to be delivered.

Please contact Natural Resources Kangaroo Island (NRKI) if you suspect that stock you are purchasing may be contaminated with declared weeds or weeds that are not present on Kangaroo Island.

Producer Responsibilities

The livestock producer is encouraged to:

- prepare livestock for sale by shearing or removing plant matter from animal hides
- treat livestock for parasites
- purge animals so that weed seeds pass through the gut before transport and or sale
- maintain livestock handling yards free of weeds
- use the plant identification skills of NRKI's authorised officers to help identify potential weeds in livestock production areas



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- prepare National Livestock Identification System, National Vendor Declaration and other livestock information legally required under the *Livestock Act 1997*.

Buyer Responsibilities

The buyer of any livestock is encouraged to ask the vendor or producer to:

- state the known weed species present on the property where the livestock were produced
- state the origin of the livestock if not bred by the vendor
- provide the National Livestock Identification System, National Vendor Declaration and other livestock information legally required under the *Livestock Act 1997*.

Transport

Section 175 of the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004* prohibits the movement of declared plants or produce and goods carrying declared plants (including parts of plants such as seeds, etc. Section 175 covers the movement of livestock contaminated with declared weed seed.

Care must be taken when transporting livestock (including walking stock on road reserves) to avoid:

- the spread of weed seeds onto road reserves and adjoining lands and vice versa if stock are transported by mustering along road reserves
- danger to other road users.



Livestock should be purged and fully secured in transit to avoid these dangers. After the delivery of the consignment, thoroughly clean the vehicle in a place where weeds can be readily detected and easily destroyed.

Managing New Livestock

Stock new to a property should be confined to a smallholding paddock for at least seven days to allow animals to be closely observed and to purge any remaining ingested weed seed. This will minimise the risk of ingested weed seed being spread to other parts of the property by the livestock.

If any weeds do germinate from livestock waste, it will be much easier to eradicate from a small holding paddock than the whole property. If livestock with long coats have not been shorn before purchase, we recommend shearing to dramatically reduce the chance of weed seed being transported externally on the livestock. Purchasing sheep 'off-shears' is highly recommended to reduce these biosecurity risks.

Contamination

Holding paddocks should be inspected at least biannually to monitor the emergence of new winter and summer active weeds. If any strange or unidentifiable plants are found on the property, the nearest authorised officer should be contacted immediately. Officers can arrange for identification of the plants and will recommend measures to control the infestation.

Image: Pigs (Kangaroo Island Industry and Brand Alliance).

For more information

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