

HOW DO TASMANIAN PRODUCERS VIEW FARM BIOSECURITY?

Mandy Bowling

Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association, Tasmania, Australia

Research and Extension Services

Abstract

Preventing the introduction of pests, diseases and weeds onto and between farms is vital in protecting Tasmanian farms, industries and produce. Tasmanian producers were surveyed, using a pilot survey, to determine if they already had a farm biosecurity plan in place, how they rate their knowledge of farm biosecurity and how important they believe farm biosecurity is. In total 25 commercial producers, 8 small landholders, 5 dairy producers, 4 fruit producers, 13 livestock producers, 2 poultry producers and 20 mixed enterprise producers responded. Overall, 45.2% had biosecurity plans, with 47.1% of commercial 28.6% of small landholders having a plan. All poultry and fruit producers had a farm biosecurity plan, while only 20% of dairy producers had a plan. Most producers strongly agreed that farm biosecurity is important, however, 20% of dairy producers strongly disagreed. Although only a pilot survey, these results demonstrate that there are differences in farm biosecurity practices and views not only between commercial and small landholders, but between industries as well. Communication about farm biosecurity to each group of producers will therefore need to be tailored to industry and level of production, to ensure communication of farm biosecurity is applicable and useful to all producers.

Keywords

Farm Biosecurity, Tasmania, Producers, Communication

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