

Biosecurity for buying and selling sheep

Watch the video *Biosecurity for buying and selling sheep*:
<https://youtu.be/o1UO2QF8jSc?si=vQ9sLMbZd7uSI5em>

As you watch the video, key industry terms and acronyms are used frequently.

1. Explain the following terms:

- **biosecurity**: systems that protect farms and people from diseases and pests
- **traceability**: being able to track where an animal has been throughout its life
- **withholding periods**: the time that must pass after a chemical like a vaccine is applied to an animal before it can be slaughtered for consumption
- **dehydrated**: lacking water to the point of causing illness
- **emaciated**: extreme thinness or weakness due to lack of food or illness
- **quarantine**: isolation of animals away from others to prevent transmission of disease and pests
- **drenching**: applying a chemical to treat internal parasites by squirting it down the throat using an applicator
- **vaccination**: a chemical that is injected into an animal to prevent diseases by developing immunity
- **notifiable disease**: a disease that must be reported to the Government if it is detected

2. Expand the industry acronyms:

- **NLIS**: National Livestock Identification System
- **PIRSA**: Department of Primary Industries and Regions South Australia
- **NVD**: National Vendor Declaration
- **PIC**: Property Identification Code
- **OJD**: Ovine Johnes Disease

3. The National Sheep Health Statement addresses sheep diseases and pests such as OJD, footrot, ovine brucellosis, scabby mouth and lice. Select one of these and provide a 100 word description of this pest or disease.

4. List the sheep industry careers showcased in the video.

Animal health officer, veterinarian, farmers (producers), truck driver, stock agent, project manager, biosecurity officer, saleyard manager, auctioneer, customer service, website designer, saleyard manager

5. **Analyse the benefits of a robust biosecurity system and the risks if it is not working well.**
Benefits – disease & pests are controlled and prevented from spreading; animals can be traced for diseases and thefts; animal welfare is protected as farmers are accountable for the welfare of their animals; industry organisations can access data to understand the industry better; markets we sell to are more confident to buy from SA and will pay more money for guaranteed quality; easier communication with all stakeholders
Risks – diseases could spread quickly; animal welfare would suffer; farmers could face higher costs and impact on their business; buyers may not trust the industry; stock could be stolen more easily
6. **Evaluate the benefits of placing newly purchased sheep into quarantine on a property for two weeks.**
Can identify sick or injured sheep and treat them, isolates weeds and disease to a manageable area, protects livestock on the rest of their property or neighbours
7. **The video describes the seller's and buyer's responsibilities when sheep are traded. Compare and contrast the responsibilities of each.**
Sellers: disclose all information, provide correct documents, tag all sheep, ensure sheep are fit to load
Buyers: do their research, inspect and quarantine new sheep, complete the NLIS transfer
Both buyers and sellers have important responsibilities, however, the seller has greatest responsibility for honesty and ethical conduct as the whole system relies on them providing accurate info and treating the animals well. The buyer contributes to this by transferring the animals on NLIS promptly but their main responsibility is to themselves – if they don't research well and don't quarantine the animals it will be their own business that suffers. In contrast, if sellers don't do the right thing the whole industry could suffer, rather than just their individual business.
8. **Evaluate how technology is making biosecurity and traceability more effective.**
Websites eg NLIS store key data in databases; Producers can access information and resources via websites and apps; uploading of individual animal data is automated; wand readers collect and transfer data digitally; smart ear tags allow more data tied to each animal; information about diseases can be shared instantly with all stakeholders via the internet
9. **Predict how biosecurity will be managed in the future.**
Maybe implants that collect health data and upload continuously as well as location. Scans and breath analysis that can identify health issues before they are observable.
Gene therapy to prevent diseases.
10. **Work with a partner to fill out the NVD and Sheep Health Declaration for an imaginary mob of sheep.**