

# BiosecurityNews

## Summer 2016

Hi,

As we head into the end of year break, many are looking forward to a well-deserved rest. While it is true there is never a good time to take your eye off good biosecurity, as pests and diseases wait for no one, with a strong biosecurity plan you can take comfort in at least being prepared.

Being prepared has certainly been a major theme this year, from the launch of our Foot and Mouth Disease Preparedness Program to the start of a program to boost the state's biosecurity capability. We have also had our preparedness successfully demonstrated with a number of incursions.

Over the past three weeks the Queensland Government and aquaculture and fishing industry have been battling an outbreak of white spot disease. Through a rapid, joint effort we are working hard to contain the disease, and will continue to do so over the Christmas closure period with staff dedicated to the response.

This year we have also responded to a varroa mite incursion on Asian honey bees in Townsville, which is continuing as an eradication program, and maintained on the ground efforts for Panama disease tropical race 4, fire ants, electric ants and other biosecurity activities.

To say it has been a busy year is a bit of an understatement, but it has certainly highlighted the increasing profile of biosecurity in Queensland. This is a good thing in that the more people are aware, the more we can all be prepared to stop future incursions.

I'd like to end the year particularly thanking all of those who actively work to protect our environment, lifestyle and agriculture resources from biosecurity threats. Our future generations will thank you too.

I wish you all well over the holidays.

Jim Thompson  
Chief Biosecurity Officer  
Biosecurity Queensland



## Latest biosecurity news



**Restrictions in place to contain prawn disease**



The Logan and Albert Rivers are currently closed to the commercial and recreational take of crustaceans as containment and control activities continue in response to an outbreak of white spot disease (WSD) in prawns.

[Read more >>](#)



## Fire ant bait treatment underway

Until May 2017, the National Red Imported Fire Ant Eradication Program will be conducting bait treatment for fire ants in Brisbane, Logan, the Gold Coast, Scenic Rim, Lockyer Valley, and Ipswich areas.

[Read more >>](#)



## Drones to spray and monitor crops in Queensland

With the introduction of new legislation in Queensland, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) are now able to help producers both spray and monitor crops on their properties.

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## Be prepared for the upcoming disaster season

With potential extreme weather events just around the corner Queensland producers, livestock and pet owners are urged to be prepared.

By taking preventative steps early, you can reduce the risk of disaster damage and financial loss, and save lives.

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## **Varroa mite eradication team announced**

The campaign to rid Australia of varroa mites has been strengthened with the announcement of a new National Varroa Mite Eradication Program (NVMEP) based in Townsville.

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## **Renewed community vigilance for Panama**

The Panama disease tropical race 4 community awareness campaign is reminding growers and Far North Queensland communities to remain vigilant in the fight against the disease.

[Read more >>](#)

## **Biosecurity updates**



**Free FMD online course**



**Drought assistance to help**

The Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) has recently produced the online course *FMD awareness – Protecting your livelihood and community*.

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## producers

When agricultural businesses are better prepared for and more resilient to climate risks, such as drought, the long-term productivity of the sector is assured and the Queensland economy, as a whole, benefits.

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## Biosecurity on banana farms is vital

With the storm and cyclone season upon us, the Panama TR4 Program is reminding banana growers in Far North Queensland to maintain their on-farm biosecurity in wet weather and to take extra care to prevent soil movement in muddy conditions to prevent the spread of Panama disease tropical race 4.

[Read more >>](#)



## A community response to fireweed

Fireweed infestations have increased in the Toowoomba region in the past year prompting landholders to seek answers on how to best control the pest.

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## New app strengthens biosecurity

To help with implementing a good biosecurity plan a new app called FarmBiosecurity has been co-designed by Animal Health Australia and Plant Health Australia.

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## Keeping summer spray drift free

The much needed summer rain is a very welcome sight to most producers, however with it comes a surge in weeds and pests, increasing the need to spray crops more frequently than at other times of the year.

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## From little things big things grow

Knowing how long weed seed remains viable in the soil can help land managers know how long they need to keep checking for weed regrowth once an infestation has been controlled.



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