Importing stockfeed
Biosecurity risks of imported bulk grains, processed stockfeed and hay

Imported stockfeed poses a high biosecurity risk to Australia. It can provide a direct pathway for pests and diseases to enter, spread and significantly affect our animal and plant production areas.

Foot and mouth disease, Newcastle disease, infectious bursal disease, and Karnal Bunt are diseases that can be spread through stockfeed.

Grains can also be contaminated with weed seeds, insects and pathogens.

Stockfeed can become infected during crop production or through contamination with other diseases during processing, storage or transportation.

Managing the biosecurity risks of imported stockfeed

The Department of Agriculture and Water Resources is responsible for managing the risks of pests and diseases arriving in Australia.

Bulk grains

Applications for bulk grain imports are assessed by the department on a scientific, case-by-case basis. If approved, strict monitoring and control measures are applied to manage the biosecurity risks.

The import permit will outline conditions that importers must meet.

Measures include that grain must be:

- sourced from countries that are deemed to be of low plant and animal biosecurity risk, and exported using pathways the department has approved
- inspected and certified free from all quarantine pests
- moved, stored and processed within Australia according to a process management system (PMS) approved by the department
- transported in clean and secured conveyances to control the leakage of grain or dust along the export pathway
- traced and tracked from the point of arrival to final release from biosecurity control
- stored and processed under biosecurity control at a department Approved Arrangement (AA) and transported and contained to manage spills or any biosecurity concerns
  - Biosecurity risks are assessed before an AA site is approved, including the site’s proximity to agricultural production, potential animal and plant hosts and transport routes, in particular through agricultural areas.
• treated to address biosecurity concerns before release from biosecurity control, including any associated waste
• directly delivered to the location stated on the import permit, with no diversions.

The importer must be able to demonstrate they have met these conditions and can manage risks around importing grain before a permit is issued.

Processed plant-based stockfeed
Australia permits imports of plant-based stock feed processed offshore. Strict import conditions apply based on the country of origin, nature of the crop, field production method, harvest method and post-processing handling, and other factors.

Hay
Hay has never been imported into Australia. It has a high risk of introducing plant and animal pathogens, viable crop seed, insect pests and weeds.

Sourcing domestic alternatives
Australian produced stockfeed poses a lower risk of introducing exotic pests or diseases. However, the movement of stockfeed across state borders can still introduce new weeds to your property. Before purchasing feed from interstate, check with your local Department of Primary Industries or Agriculture to see if any regulations apply.

Learn more about Australia’s requirements for the importation of stockfeed at agriculture.gov.au/import/goods/plant-products/stockfeed-supplements.