

Sheep Biosecurity Workshop Farm Case Study B

This fictional farm example will illustrate and explain some of the key biosecurity points outlined in the National Biosecurity Standards. The questions related to the farm case will prepare you for completing your own farm self-assessment and action plan.

Farm Management and Lay-out:

Mr. and Mrs. Wool own a sheep farm and have 400 ewes. The couple own 150 acres. The neighbouring farmers are cash croppers and one neighbour has beef cattle. Mr. Wool works off-farm as an accountant while Mrs. Wool works at the on-farm store selling farm products. Mrs. Wool does the morning and evening chores and, when lambing, will check the ewes and bottle feed lambs when required.

There is one laneway to access the on-farm store (situated in the drive shed), the feeding area and the barns. Please refer to the diagram of the farm layout for a full view of the farm. Visitors to the on-farm store go to the drive shed. If the store is not open there is a buzzer which will alert Mrs. Wool to the arrival of a customer on her cell phone.

Livestock Operations:

The couple have 350 mature ewes, 50 replacement ewe lambs and 10 mature rams. There are also seven cows and their calves, 20 laying hens, 100 broiler chicks and four livestock guardian dogs. The couple does not have any cats as they have had abortions due to *Toxoplasma gondii* in the past. Instead of cats, the couple have bait stations for rodent control.

Rams are sourced from high health flocks from animals with genetic performance data. The purchased rams are quarantined for one month and are then introduced to the flock. Mature ewes and ewe lambs are housed together while rams are housed separately.

As noted above, the couple have a store on their farm in the drive shed. Customers park in the designated parking area and walk over to the store. Mr. and Mrs. Wool sell freezer beef, lamb and chickens which go to the local abattoir to be processed and inspected and then come back to be sold. They are also marketing some jams, wool products and fresh eggs. Approximately 100 lambs per year are marketed through the store. The remaining lambs are taken to the local auction barn and sold.

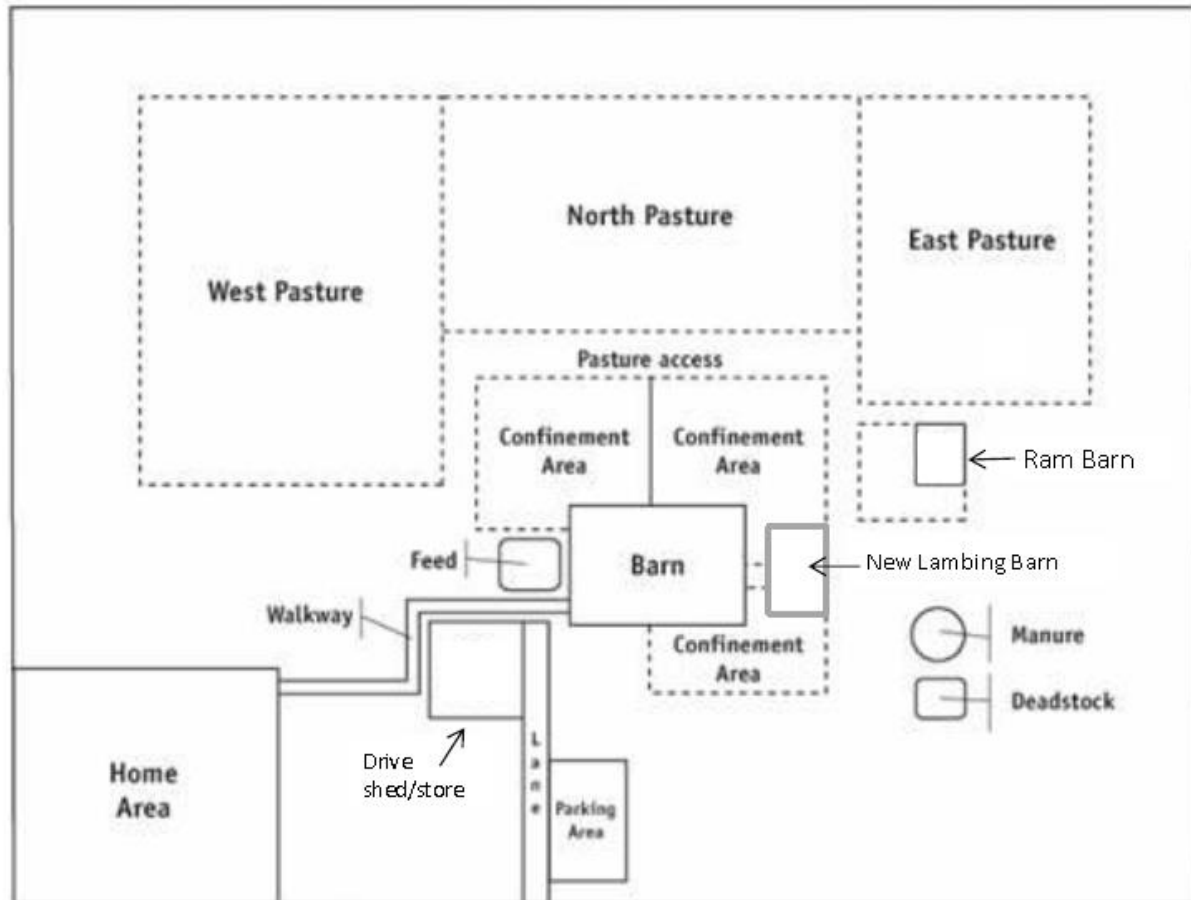
Manure is composted for one year in a designated area while deadstock is put in an underground deadstock vessel located on the farm. Straw and 200 round bales of hay are grown on the farm; 300 round bales of hay are purchased from a local farmer. A custom ewe ration and lamb ration are purchased from the local Co-op. The feed trucks deliver once per month and use the laneway as an access point to deliver feed to the designated area. The feed company washes their trucks every Sunday.

The Wools recently converted one of their smaller out buildings to a designated lambing barn. Mr. Wool had the opportunity to buy some used wooden gates and partitions at an auction sale for a local sheep and beef producer who was selling out. He was very careful to pressure wash his purchases before taking them into the barn and setting them up.

Mr. and Mrs. Wool are on the Ontario Sheep Health Program and work with their veterinarian who assists them with program protocols and performs yearly flock health checks.

Recently, Mr. Wool has noticed that his young lambs have blisters and crusty scabs around their mouths and that some of the ewes have scabs on their teats. Ewes will not let the lambs suck and the lambs' feed intake has started to drop. In addition, Mrs. Wool has noticed lesions breaking out on her hands.

Diagram of Farm Layout



Farm Case Study Questions

In many cases, there is no single correct answer. The choice of action may depend on several factors, and what is practical and achievable under the circumstances.

1. Where and by what methods might this farm establish their CAZ, RAZ and CAPs?
2. List **three** access management issues faced by this farm and identify some possible changes they could make to reduce these risks.
3. Identify **three** biosecurity risks on this farm related to animal health management and suggest how these risks could be mitigated.
4. Identify **three** operational management biosecurity risks with this farm and list some possible solutions.
5. What is this farm doing that would be considered good biosecurity practices? List at least **five**.