



TRESPASS TOOLKIT FOR EGG FARMERS

**AUSTRALIAN EGGS IS COMMITTED
TO ENHANCING THE REPUTATION
OF OUR INDUSTRY AND INCREASING
CONSUMPTION OF EGGS**

The egg industry has experienced a number of farm trespass incidents in recent years.

Farm trespass is unannounced entry onto a farm without permission from the owner or manager. It includes activists, media or any other uninvited visitor. With activists, trespass is typically conducted at night to avoid detection. It may include:

- Unauthorised entry
- Entering a farm under false pretences
- Applying for employment at a farm with intent to record activities
- Use of a drone over a property

This toolkit is an evolving resource that provides practical advice in relation to farm trespass. We ask farmers to inform Australian Eggs in the event of a farm invasion so we can call on our resources and expertise to assist.

WHAT TO DO IF A FARM TRESPASS OCCURS

1. CALL THE POLICE

Immediately to report the incident. Call 000 if trespassers are on your property at the time of calling and make it clear you need police to come straight away.

Do not attempt to apprehend perpetrators but try to obtain vehicle registration.

Following a trespass incident, ensure you report:

- Damage to your property
- Any impact to your birds
- Any unknown vehicles seen in the area
- Evidence left behind, including hidden cameras

You can photograph or video the location where the break-in occurred but avoid touching the site before police arrive. Record important details, such as times, dates, and anything you saw, as this will help police.

2. CONTACT AUSTRALIAN EGGS

Contact us as soon as possible to tell us what you know. We have prepared response plans for a range of incidents and a number of external experts we can call on.

CALL THE AUSTRALIAN EGGS OFFICE:

02 9409 6901

OR

JOHN BARRY, ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR:

0415 883 721

3. ASSESS AND PROTECT YOUR BIOSECURITY

To assess the possible health impact on your birds, we advise you to ring your vet for advice and obtain an assessment of the impact.

4. DO NOT RESPOND TO MEDIA REQUESTS

If media become aware of the incident, decline any interview requests. Do not use social media to make a public statement or vent frustration. There is a danger that broadcasting the incident or responding to media enquiries will lead to uninformed, critical exposure.

5. TALK TO YOUR EMPLOYEES

Farm trespass can cause significant distress with the impact lasting long after the event.

Australian Eggs will offer any assistance we can provide. Farm owners should speak to their employees and offer counselling services if support is needed.

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MINIMISING THE RISK

1. STRENGTHEN ON-FARM SECURITY AND BIOSECURITY

People who would consider illegally entering a farm should be made aware via clear signage that they do not have permission to be on-farm, prosecution could result, and their presence poses a serious biosecurity risk.

Signage could include:

- “No Entry – Biosecurity Risk”
- “Private Property – Trespassers will be prosecuted”
- “No photography without prior permission from the owner”
- “Quarantine Area”

Australian Eggs has a limited number of farm biosecurity signs developed by Animal Health Australia that we can send you.

2. ERECT STURDY FENCES WHERE APPROPRIATE

- Ensure fences and gates are secure, especially around the perimeter
- Lock all gates and doors securely when unoccupied by staff

3. ESA CERTIFICATION

Egg Standards of Australia (ESA) certification provides evidence that a comprehensive set of compliance standards have been reviewed against regulatory requirements.

It allows Australian egg farmers to show they are responsible farmers who follow world’s best practice as it relates to hen welfare, flock health, food safety, and biosecurity.



4. DEMONSTRATE GOOD ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

- Obtain a copy of the *Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals: Domestic Poultry*, and ensure your farm meets these standards
- Have a clear plan in place for the management of sick or injured birds and spent hen euthanasia. Resources are available on the Australian Eggs website.
- Obtain good, independent advice from your vet on welfare practices

5. ENSURE STAFF ARE PROPERLY TRAINED

- Take extra care to ensure you hire the right people and complete thorough background checks on applicants
- Provide formal training for your employees. Australian Eggs offers the EggStart training program for new people to the industry and Certificate III in poultry production for employees who have on-farm experience.
- Ask staff to give their ideas on continually improving animal welfare practices
- Ensure staff are aware of protocols in relation to farm trespass

MINIMISING THE RISK

6. CONSIDER A VIDEO SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM

Farmers may want to consider using video surveillance technology to record any unusual activity in their sheds. Obtain specialist advice to find a system that meets your needs.

SURVEILLANCE TIPS

- Make sure your surveillance system can record a video stream well enough for the purpose of identification
- Configure your systems with a high frame rate and a low amount of compression to maximise quality
- Higher pixel count sensors will have limited light gathering ability compared to lower pixel count sensors of the same size

Consider technologies such as laser movement detection and sensory equipment linked to communication devices such as mobile phones.

7. BE VIGILANT AT ALL TIMES

- If there is an unfamiliar vehicle roaming near your farm or a drone flying over your land, report it to police
- Conduct regular inspections for surveillance equipment and signs of tampering or damage
- Identify anyone wanting to investigate your farm by asking them for personal ID. Remember, farm owners and their representatives have the right to refuse entry to anyone, regardless of whether they have ID or not.

SHARE YOUR FEEDBACK

Help us provide farmers the most relevant and practical information possible by giving us your feedback on any changes or additions needed for this toolkit.

Please send your feedback to John Barry, Engagement Coordinator:

john.barry@australianeggs.org.au