



Integrity Systems

red meat customer assurance

INTEGRITY MATTERS: INFORMATION BULLETIN | SEPTEMBER 2023

Meeting LPA requirements for agistment



During drought or following floods, agistment can provide welcome relief, offering feed or safety to livestock. However all livestock movements, especially after a natural disaster, pose an added biosecurity risk.

Key actions

✓ Record all stock movements between PICs in the NLIS database

✓ Inspect the property or send a trusted representative, such as a stock agent

✓ Ensure you know about any contaminated sites or potential chemical exposure on the property

✓ Confirm the PIC is LPA accredited and check if it has any assigned statuses on the NLIS database

✓ Prepare a written agreement between the agister (owner of the stock) and the landowner, outlining roles and responsibilities

✓ Have a biosecurity plan that includes isolation of livestock which has been moved onto a property

Producers with stock on agistment blocks (agisters) and landowners must work together to ensure animals' traceability, biosecurity and welfare are maintained.

Making sure these requirements are met will preserve people's trust in Australian red meat as being safe, high quality and ethically produced.

Below are recommendations for producers to consider when agisting stock:

Preparation

Agisters should conduct a pre-agreement inspection of the agistment property and scope out contaminated sites and/or any potential for chemical exposure.

If you are an LPA accredited producer:

- Confirm that the property is LPA accredited
- Check if the PIC has any statuses assigned to it on the NLIS database

There can be implications to consider for livestock returning or being sold from non-LPA accredited PICs or from PICs with an assigned status.

Enquiries should also be made about other livestock on the property, and the health status of these animals. Local government veterinarians can be contacted to discuss potential disease risks or known nutritional deficiencies (e.g. phosphorus) in the area.

Landowners can request an Animal Health Declaration before accepting livestock, which provides information about the health status of the incoming animals.

A written agreement

Develop a written agreement between the agister and the landowner. A written agreement helps to mitigate risks to both businesses in the event of a dispute. The document should cover who is responsible for the health of the livestock, including in the event of a disease outbreak or natural disaster.

The document should also outline who is responsible for updating the NLIS database when stock move and which National Vendor Declaration (NVD) will be used, based on the relevant state or territory legislation.

Finally, the document should cover who is responsible for replacing lost NLIS devices or applying new devices to livestock born on the property, as well as agreed minimum biosecurity requirements (e.g. quarantine periods, disease and parasite treatments).

When sending livestock to an agistment property

Provide an Animal Health Declaration and NVD to the landowner at the agistment property. Landowners need to keep the NVD for a minimum of three years, or for the duration of livestock on the property if longer. Ensure livestock are fit to travel in accordance with the [Fit to Load Guidelines](#). Upload the livestock movement to the PIC on the NLIS database.

Some states may require you to register a PIC for the agistment property in your own name.

Returning home

Segregate returning stock from other animals. The quarantine period should reflect the potential risk associated with the returning stock. At a minimum, allow sufficient time for emptying out (24–48 hours including time off feed before turning out). During this time, monitor the stock for disease and parasites, or an associated spread of weeds. Seeds may have been transferred along with the animals. A quarantine yard is best, but a smaller, secure paddock would also be suitable. Ensure the movement of livestock back to the home property has been entered into the NLIS database.

LPA requirements

All LPA accredited producers must comply with the [LPA Rules and Standards](#) which include having a property biosecurity plan for their PIC. For LPA accredited producers who are agisting stock, there are three options (depending on your state or territory requirements):

1. The preferred option is for LPA accredited producers to obtain their own, separate LPA accreditation and access their own NVDs for the agistment PIC. This additional LPA account in the agister's name is then subject to the LPA standards and fees, and is auditable. The agister will need to have their own biosecurity plan for this property. A third-party authorisation form will need to be completed by both parties and returned to Integrity Systems Company (ISC). To access this form, call the ISC Helpdesk on **1800 683 111** or email lpa@integritysystems.com.au.
2. If the landowner is LPA accredited, the agister can use the landowner's NVD for moving animals off the property for sale, slaughter or to another property. It is then the landowner's responsibility to meet LPA standards, including having a property biosecurity plan. This plan should include any agisted livestock as part of its risk management. This is not an option in Western Australia.
3. If your state/territory requires you to have your own PIC for the agistment property, you will need to accredit this PIC with LPA and access your own NVDs.

LPA audits

All LPA accredited producers are subject to random audits and must comply with the LPA Rules and Standards, which includes having a property biosecurity plan.

Resources

- » [Animal health declaration](https://farmbiosecurity.com.au/toolkit/declarations-and-statements) — farmbiosecurity.com.au/toolkit/declarations-and-statements
- » [Third-party authorisation form](#) — Call the ISC Helpdesk on 1800 683 111 or email lpa@integritysystems.com.au
- » [LPA Rules and Standards](https://integritysystems.com.au/on-farm-assurance/lpa-rules-standards) — integritysystems.com.au/on-farm-assurance/lpa-rules-standards
- » [Fit to Load Guidelines](https://mla.com.au/fittoload) — mla.com.au/fittoload



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