

COVID-19 8 POINT PLAN FOR GROWERS

Please consider all of these points as you plan your response to COVID-19.

1. Protect your farm

- Keep a record of authorised visitors - record date and time of visit.
- Ensure EVERYONE washes their hands thoroughly on arrival and before they leave.
- Where practical, clean equipment, vehicles and machinery with an anti-viral solution between users. Keep spray bottles of anti-viral solution in vehicles, in smoko rooms or shared spaces. Spray, leave for 10 seconds, then wipe.
- Stay at least two metres apart from anyone not in your family unit or bubble AT ALL TIMES.
- If anyone is at all unwell, they need to stay at home and self-isolate.

2. Look after your employees

- Prepare a letter so they can travel to and from work legally. (See letter template in FAR COVID-19 Useful resources)
- When staff arrive on the farm ask them to wash their hands with soap and water or hand sanitizer.
- Before starting the day's work, have a conversation with staff to ensure they are maintaining social distancing outside of work and discuss how they will safely manage tasks while maintaining social distancing and high standards of hygiene.
- Have a plan for safe eating. Use separate utensils and practice social distancing.
- Get them to sign a MOU to ensure they understand their responsibilities in keeping New Zealand's food production going. (See Employee Memorandum of Understanding template in FAR COVID-19 Useful resources)

3. Look after your family and yourself

- Take a break, get some exercise, clear your head, eat well and put personal routines in place such as regular meal and sleep times. <https://farmstrong.co.nz>
- If you or someone close to you needs extra support please contact the **Rural Support Trust 0800 787 254**.

4. Consider what would happen if you got sick

- Draw up a farm operating manual so someone could come in and keep things running. Think about the idiosyncrasies of your farm (e.g. water and electricity systems).
- If you feel unwell call your GP or **Healthline 0800 358 5453** and stay away from any staff or people on your farm.

5. Review your to-do list

Prioritise - What needs to be done in the next four weeks and what can be postponed?

6. Contact support services

- A number of essential farm support businesses are still operating. Contact them to discuss your requirements and how these can be met safely for all parties. These might include grain and seed agents, agronomists, fertiliser spreaders, transport operators.
- Ensure all service providers are registered as an essential service and have a plan in place to safely deliver their service.

7. Financial support

Talk to your accountant or bank manager about government support packages, tax exemptions and other support tools. Government support is available to those who meet a certain criteria. www.business.govt.nz/news/coronavirus-information-for-businesses

8. Thinking about your community

- Regularly phone older or more vulnerable members of your community.
- Keep in touch with neighbours, friends, sports or social groups - have virtual get-togethers- there are a number of easy-to-use technologies available to make this happen.
- Drop off essential supplies to those who might need it. Just leave food, firewood etc. at the door.
- When this is over there will be a number of unemployed, skilled people looking for work - is there an opportunity to employ an extra pair of hands to get jobs done?

