

Grains and Oilseeds Biosecurity Workshop Farm Case Study

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:

Joe and Jill Smith, along with their teenaged sons Jeff and Justin, run a relatively small, 200-head short-keep feedlot operation. Their entire land base is comprised of a 200 acre home farm where the feedlot is located plus another 600 acres of owned and rented land in corn, soybeans, wheat and hay. Joe and Jill work full-time on the farm and the boys help out on weekends and school vacation.

The beef cattle are housed in an open-end covered feedlot/barn. Finishing rations of mostly grain and some forage are fed to the cattle. All hay and straw is produced on-farm. Manure is spread on the fields in the spring and fall. It is stored on a cement pad behind the barn prior to spreading.

There is one main laneway into the property which splits off toward the house and barn. The access to the back fields curves around the back of the barn. The Smiths have their crop input supplier do their crop scouting during the growing season and also have them do soil sampling in the spring and fall. The scouts typically bring in an ATV on a trailer pulled behind a pick-up truck and park it near the drive shed. They can access 400 acres of the Smith's land via trails and laneways from the home farm.

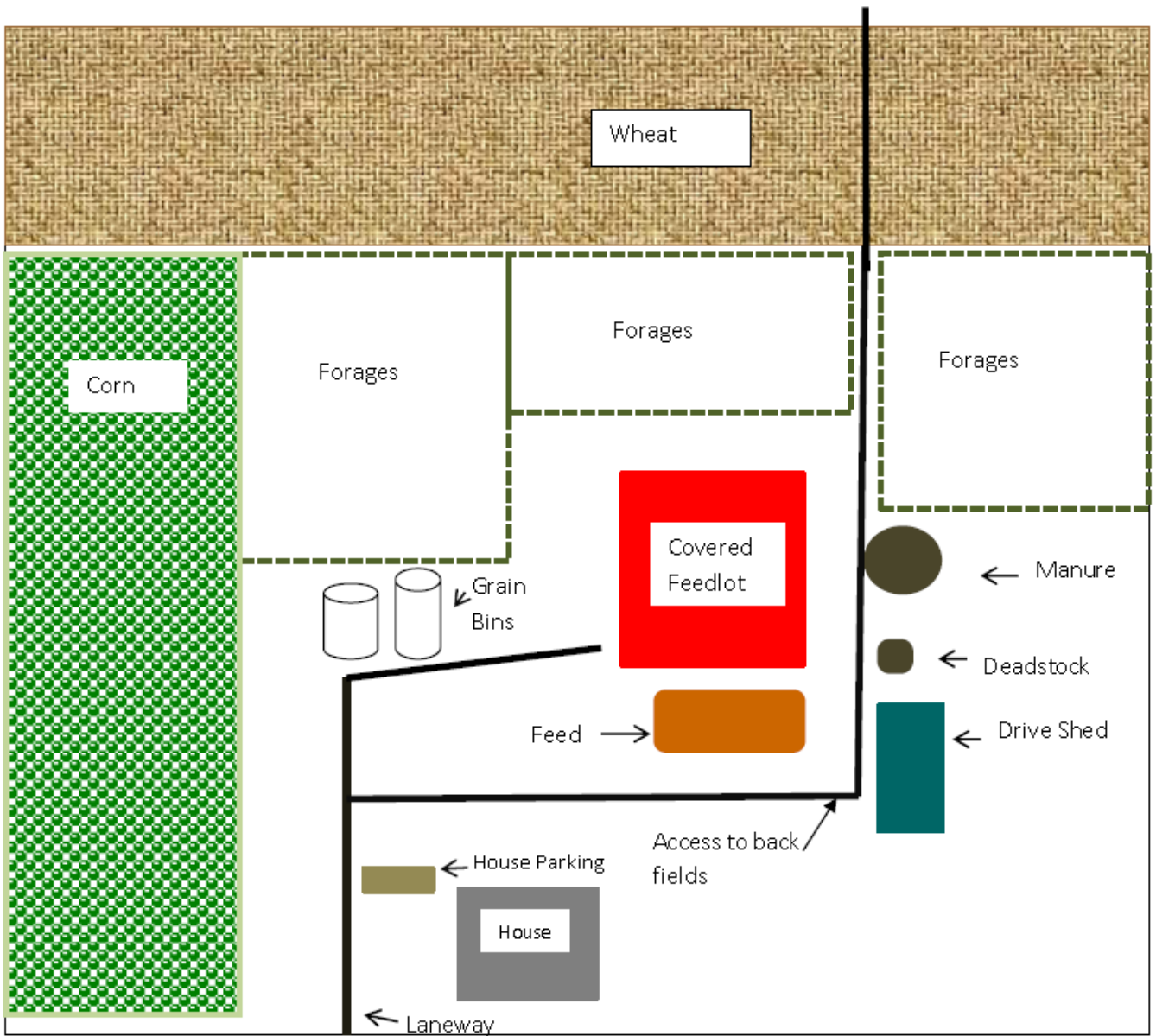
The Smiths keep a gas powered pressure washer in their drive shed to clean their field equipment. Their crop protection products are typically custom applied by their crop input supplier. The company is well respected in the area and also does all the custom application for the Smith's neighbours. All purchased crop seed is certified seed.

The Smiths have two on-farm grain storage bins. When they get completely empty, they are swept out. However, this doesn't happen very often as grain is constantly being added over the harvest period and the bins are generally full over the winter. Grain from the home farm and other owned and rented land is stored in these bins.

Jill would like to start keeping a log book of people and vehicle traffic on and off the farm however she is not sure how to track movement. The Smiths don't have any gates on the laneway so crop scouts, custom applicators, delivery people, etc. come and go without her always knowing they have been there. If she and Joe are both working in the fields or barn, visitors will frequently drive out to find them. There is a parcel drop box at the house for courier deliveries, supplier invoices, etc.

Home Farm Layout

Note: Map is not to scale and only shows a portion of the farming operation.



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. Identify **three** biosecurity risks in this farming operation related to plant health management and suggest how these risks could be mitigated.
2. Identify **three** biosecurity risks related to people and equipment movement and list some possible solutions.
3. What are these farmers doing that would be considered good biosecurity practices? List at least **five**.