

Potato Growers' 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:

John and Beth Green, along with their daughter (Jennifer) and son-in-law (Matthew), operate a 500 acre potato and field crop farm. All four work full-time for the farming operation. Their entire land base is comprised of a 200 acre home farm (where John and Beth live), a 50 acre parcel to the North and adjacent to the home farm, a 100 acre parcel across the road, and a 150 acre farm to the East of the home farm on the same side of the road but separated by a beef cow calf and cash crop farm. Jennifer and Matthew live in the house on the latter farm. There are no buildings on the 50 and 100 acre parcels.

They generally have 200 acres of potatoes in production with corn and wheat as rotational crops on the other 300 acres. The Greens grow potatoes for the fresh market and plant yellow fleshed, white and red varieties. All purchased crop seed is certified seed, potatoes and grain crops.

They have a washing facility and two potato storage sheds at the home farm. One is wood and the other, newer shed is steel, both have concrete floors. The water and sediment from washing flow into a holding pond.

They are slowly converting their bins over to plastic from wood as they need replacing. Their potatoes are bagged and marketed by another grower who uses his trucks to transport the crop from the Green's storage to his bagging facility. The culls are sold to the beef farmer next door who feeds them to his cows during late fall and winter.

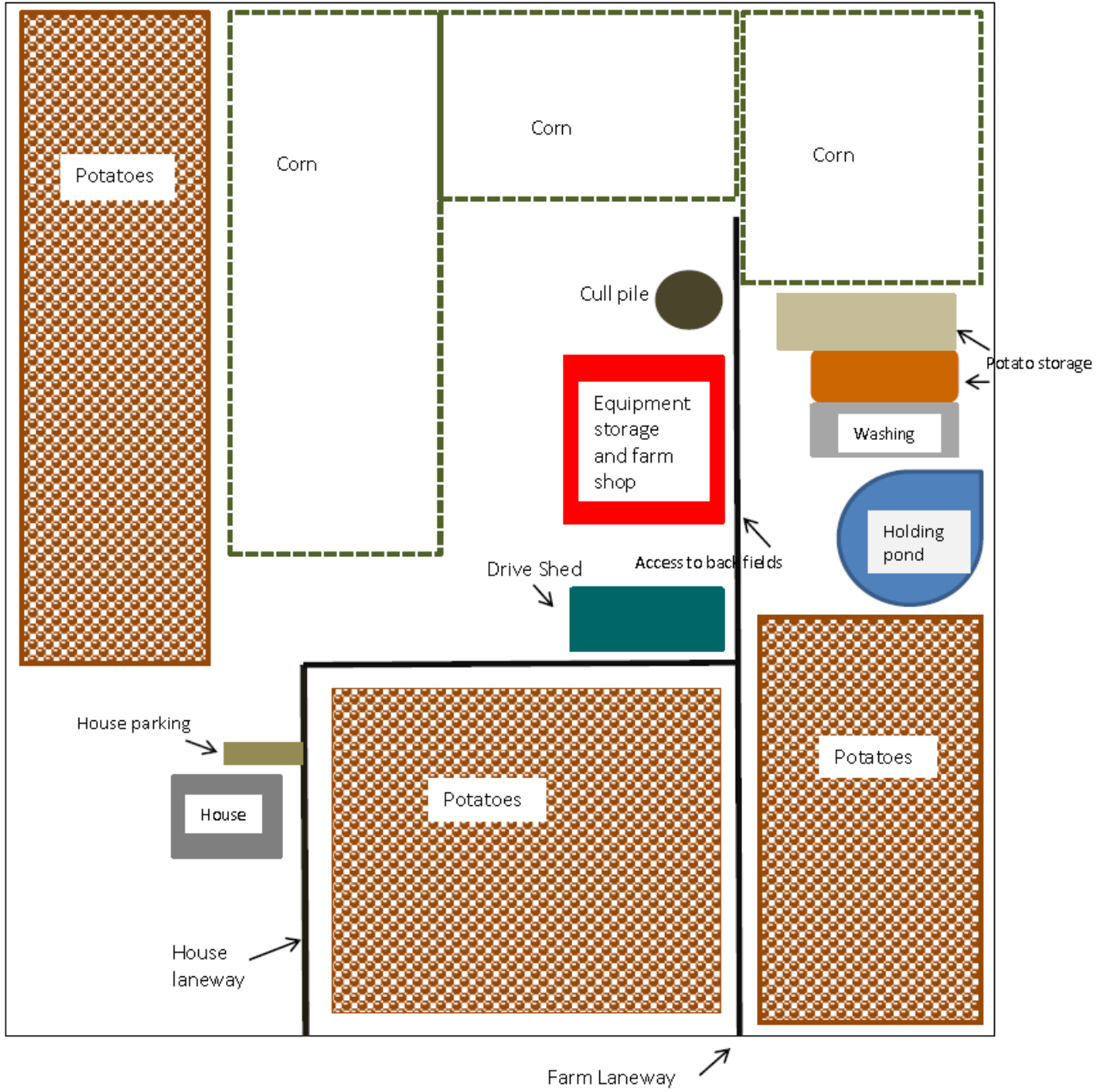
There are two main laneways into the home farm, one for the house and one for the farming operations. The access to the back fields curves around the back of the barns and sheds. Jennifer and Matthew usually travel between the farms using ATVs. The Greens have their crop input supplier do their crop 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 equipment storage sheds. They can access 400 acres of the Green's land via trails and laneways from the home farm.

The Greens 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 Greens' neighbours.

Beth 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 Greens 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 no one is around the farm buildings will frequently drive around the farm 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. Where and by what methods might this farm establish their CAZ, RAZ and CAPs?
Do they require a RAZ?
2. Identify **three** biosecurity risks in this farming operation related to plant health management and suggest how these risks could be mitigated.
3. Identify **three** biosecurity risks related to people and equipment movement and list some possible solutions.
4. What are these farmers doing that would be considered good biosecurity practices?
List at least **five**.