

Farm Biosecurity Masterclass: Managing soil-borne diseases



Masterclass Objectives

- Discuss the benefits of biosecurity practices.
- Identify your biosecurity risks and your ability to reduce those risks.
- Increase the productivity of strawberry farms in Victoria.

What is Farm Biosecurity?

Farm biosecurity is designed to protect a property from the entry and spread of pests, diseases and weeds.



Who is Responsible?

Farm biosecurity is your responsibility and that of **every person** visiting or working on your property.



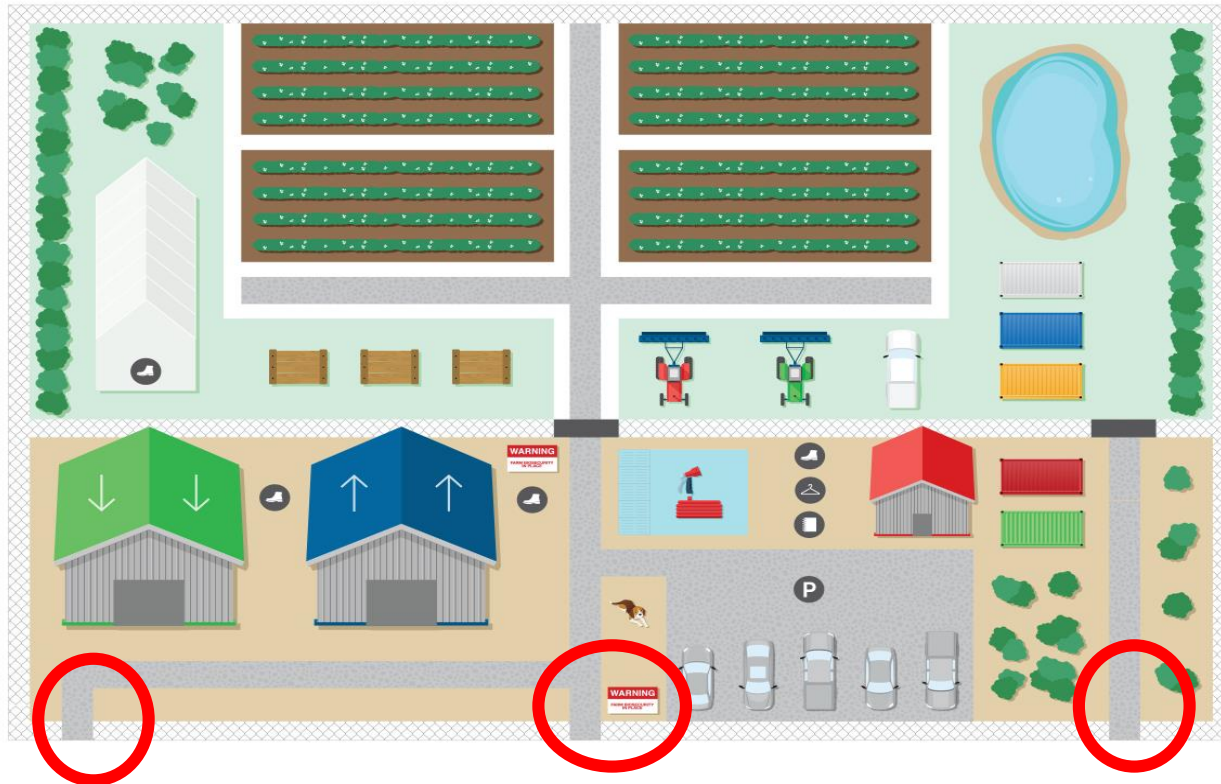
How can Farm Biosecurity help Strawberry Crops?

- Farm biosecurity can manage the movement of soil within and between farms.
- Farm biosecurity can reduce the spread of soil-borne diseases.

Farm Biosecurity Risks

- Each biosecurity measure will minimise the risk of disease on your property.
- Identify your biosecurity risk and your capacity to reduce that risk.

Property Access

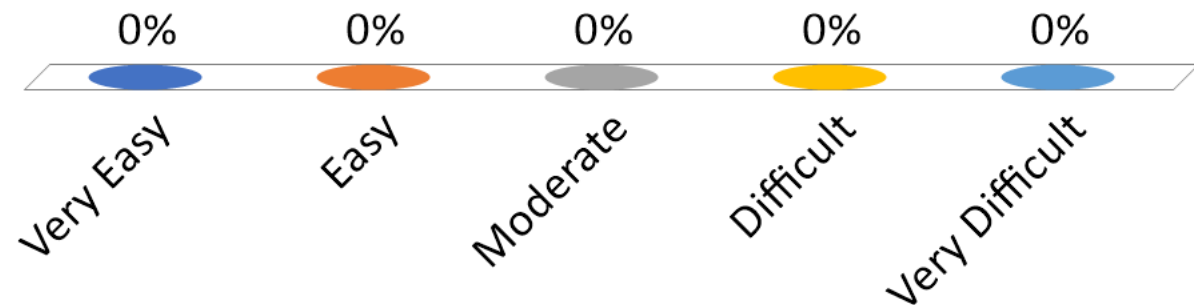


Limit the number of access points to your property (lock unused gates).

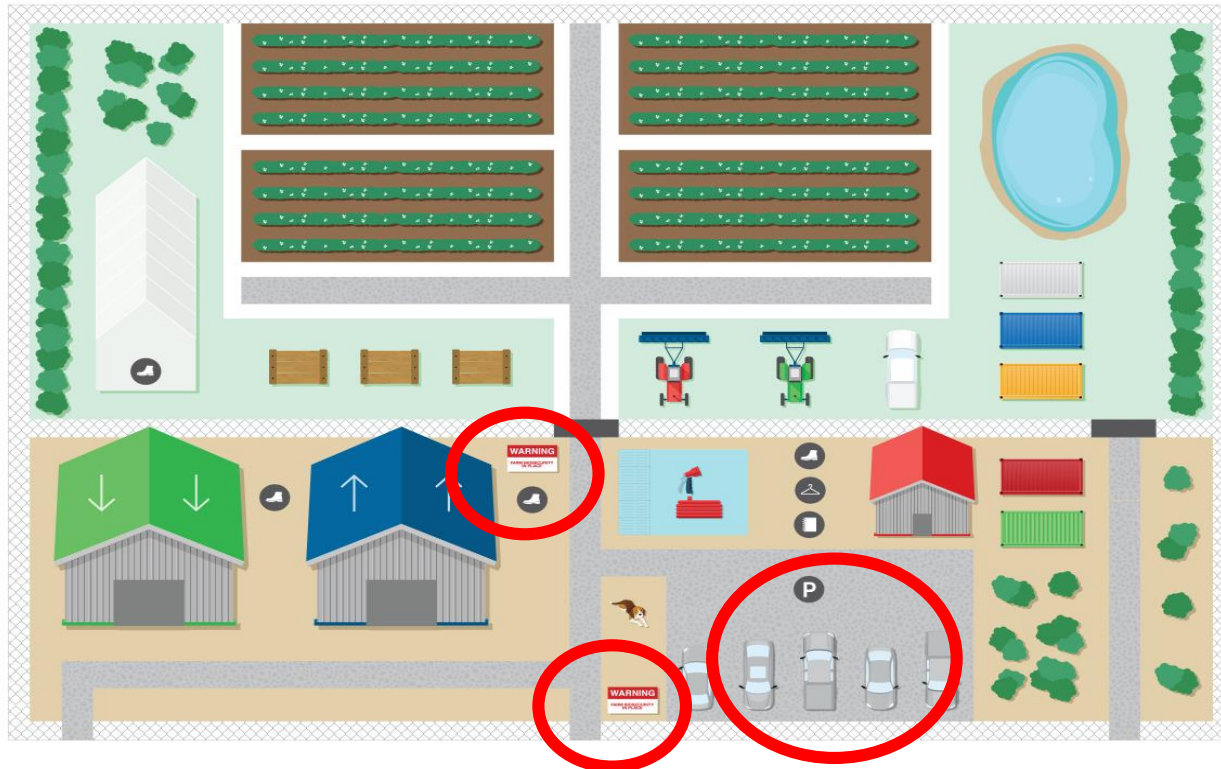
Create and use a visitor registry.

How difficult would it be for you to limit access to your property to **one** gate?

- A. Very Easy
- B. Easy
- C. Moderate
- D. Difficult
- E. Very Difficult



Signage



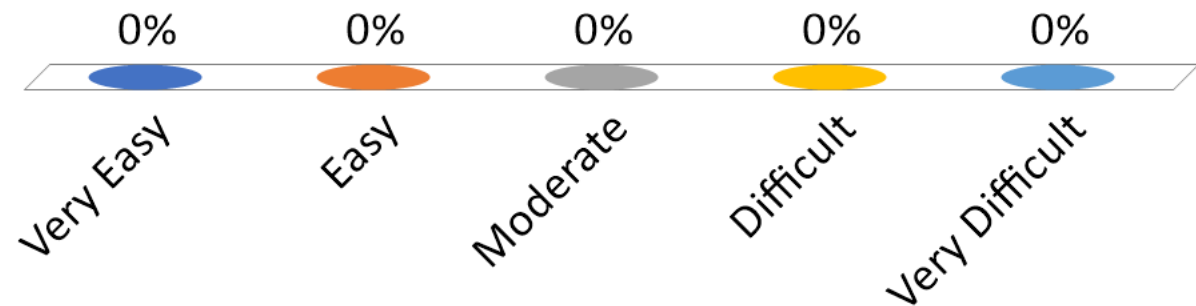
Erect biosecurity signs. Use clear instructions and provide relevant contact details.



Farm biosecurity signage is available from <http://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/buy-a-gate-sign/>

How difficult would it be for you to put up a biosecurity sign?

- A. Very Easy
- B. Easy
- C. Moderate
- D. Difficult
- E. Very Difficult



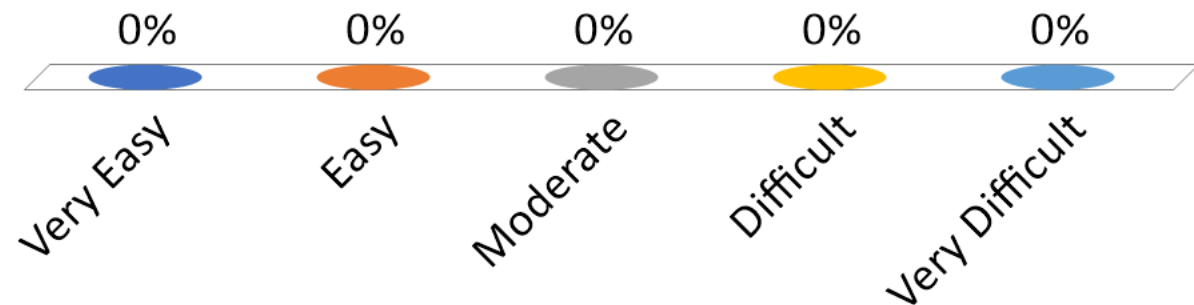
Visitor and Employee Carpark



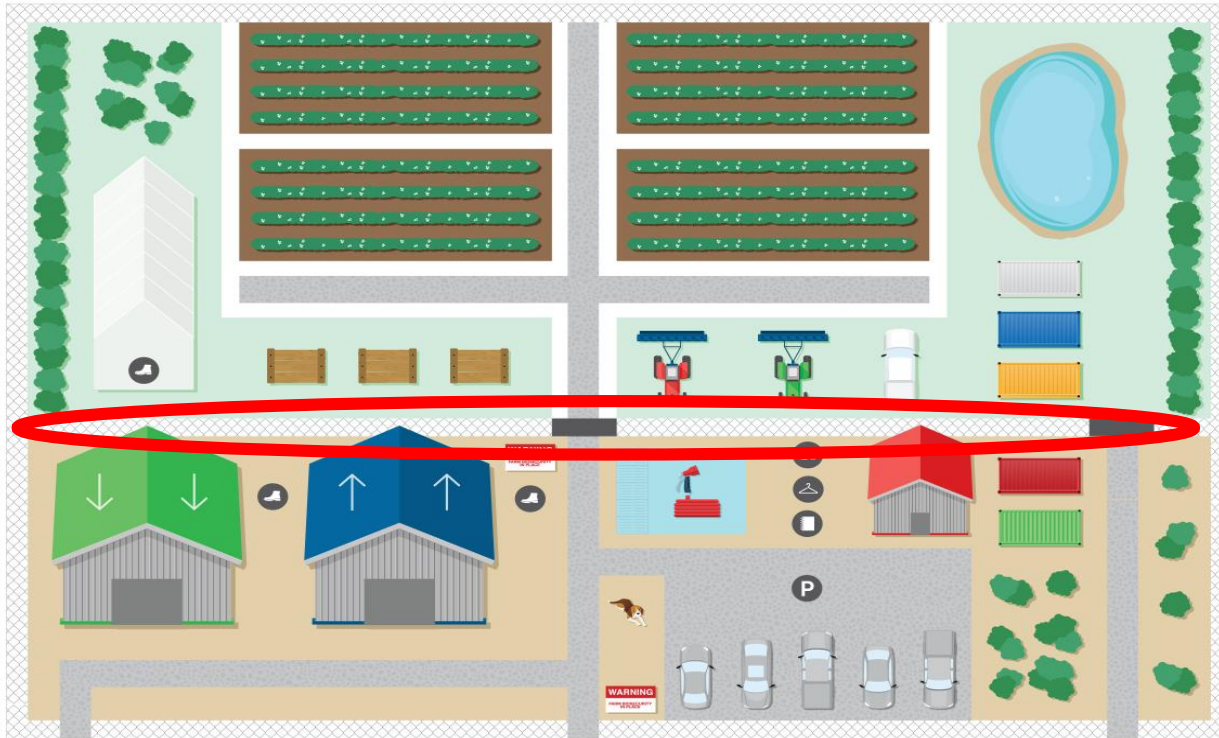
Designated, gravelled car parks for visitors may help to reduce the risk of infested soil from entering your property.

How difficult would it be for you to create and use a gravelled carpark on your property?

- A. Very Easy
- B. Easy
- C. Moderate
- D. Difficult
- E. Very Difficult



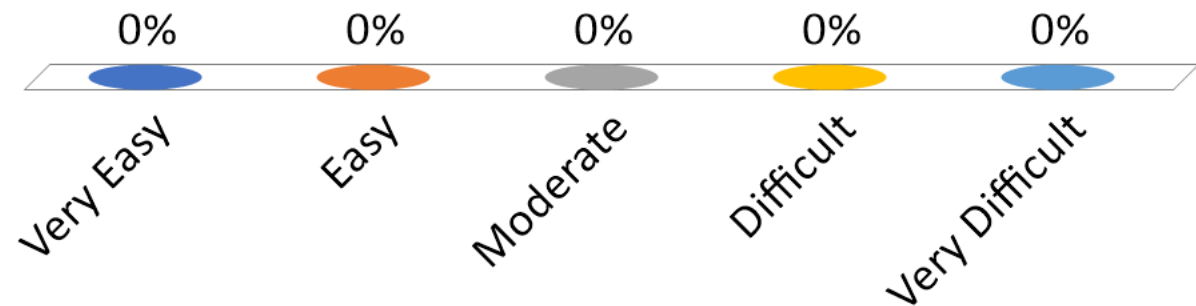
Property Zoning



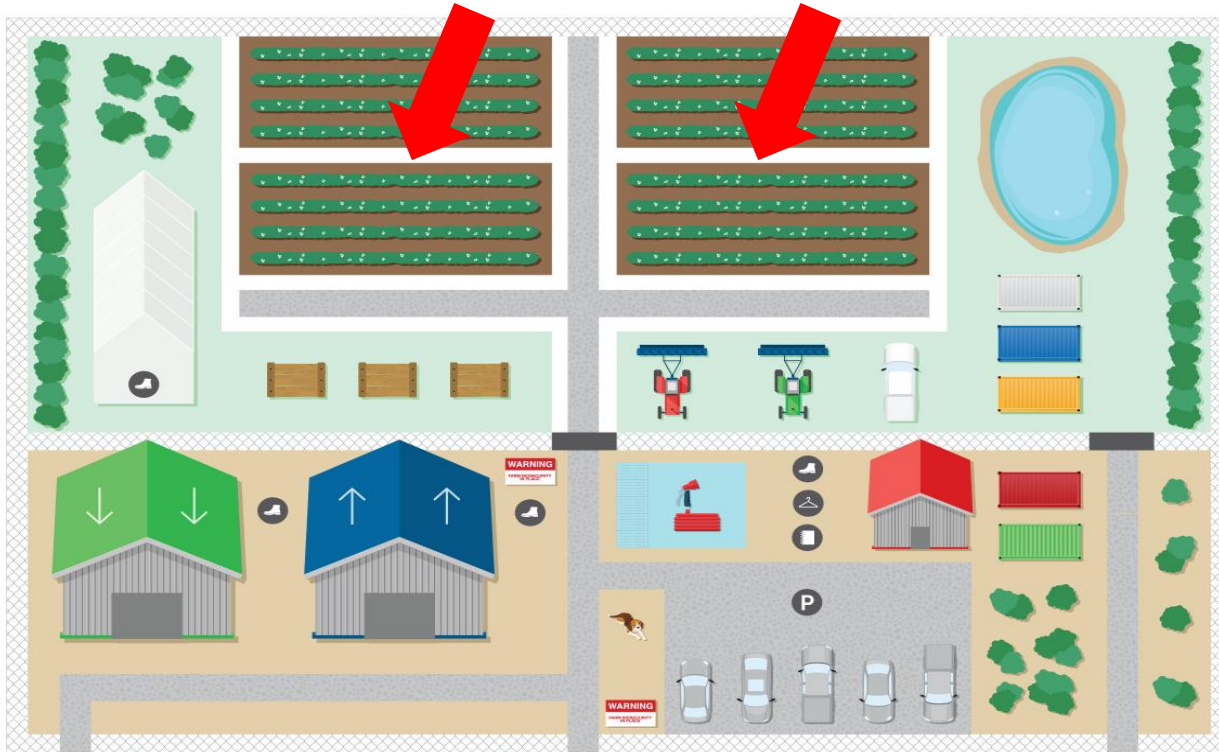
Create zones to direct visitors and staff, including public zones and production zones.

How difficult would it be for you to stop visitors from entering your production zones?

- A. Very Easy
- B. Easy
- C. Moderate
- D. Difficult
- E. Very Difficult



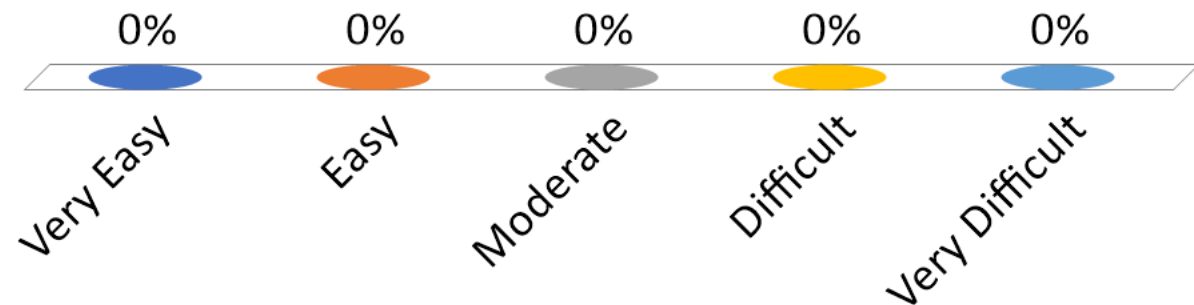
Buffer Zones



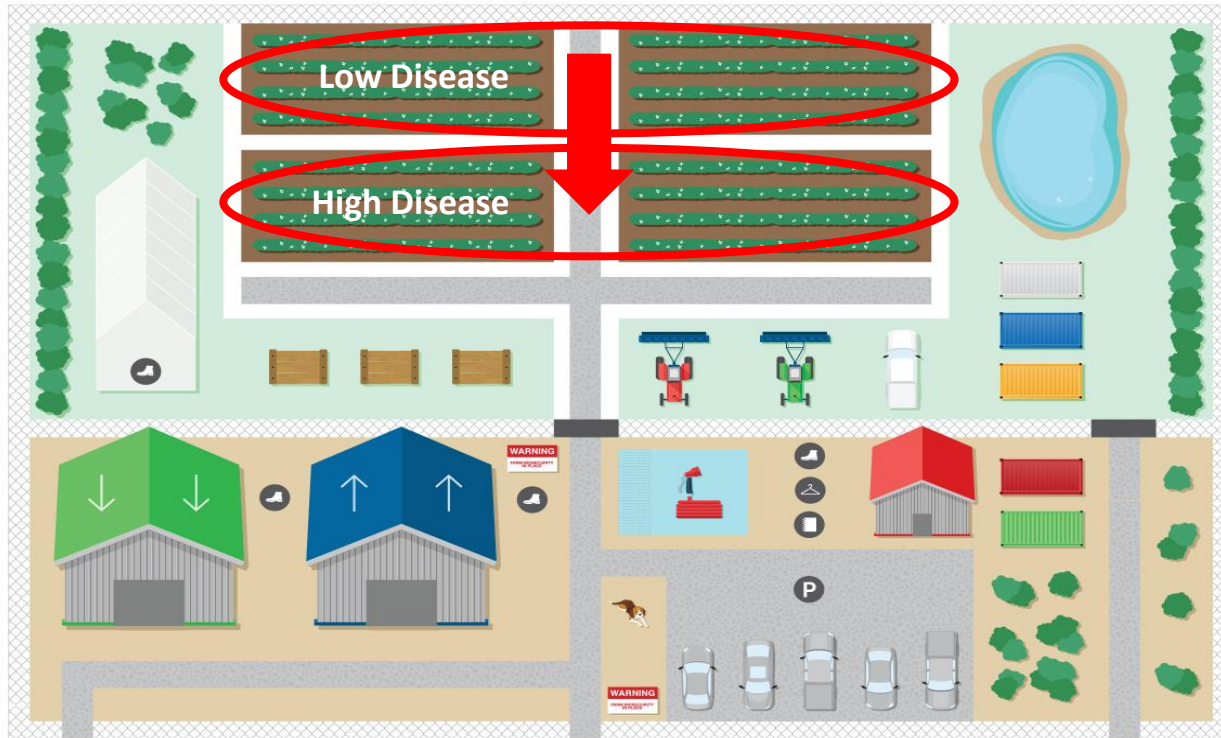
Buffer zones help to isolate infested paddocks from non-affected paddocks.

How difficult would it be for you to create buffer zones between your blocks?

- A. Very Easy
- B. Easy
- C. Moderate
- D. Difficult
- E. Very Difficult



Paddock Zoning



Create a map of your farm showing the areas of low and high disease.

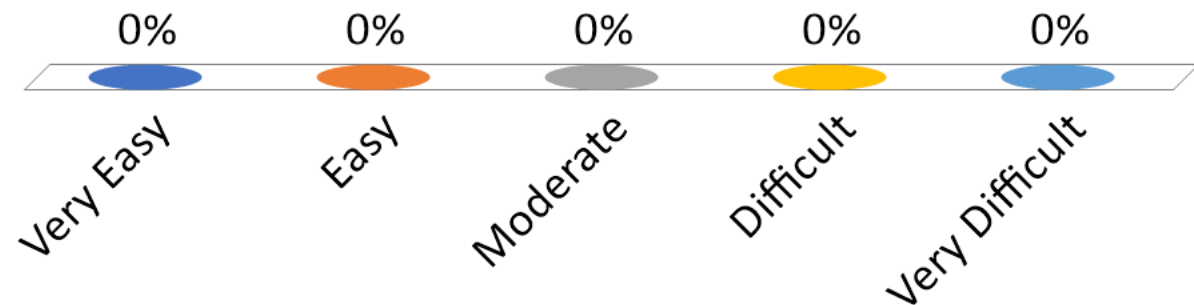
Paddock Zoning



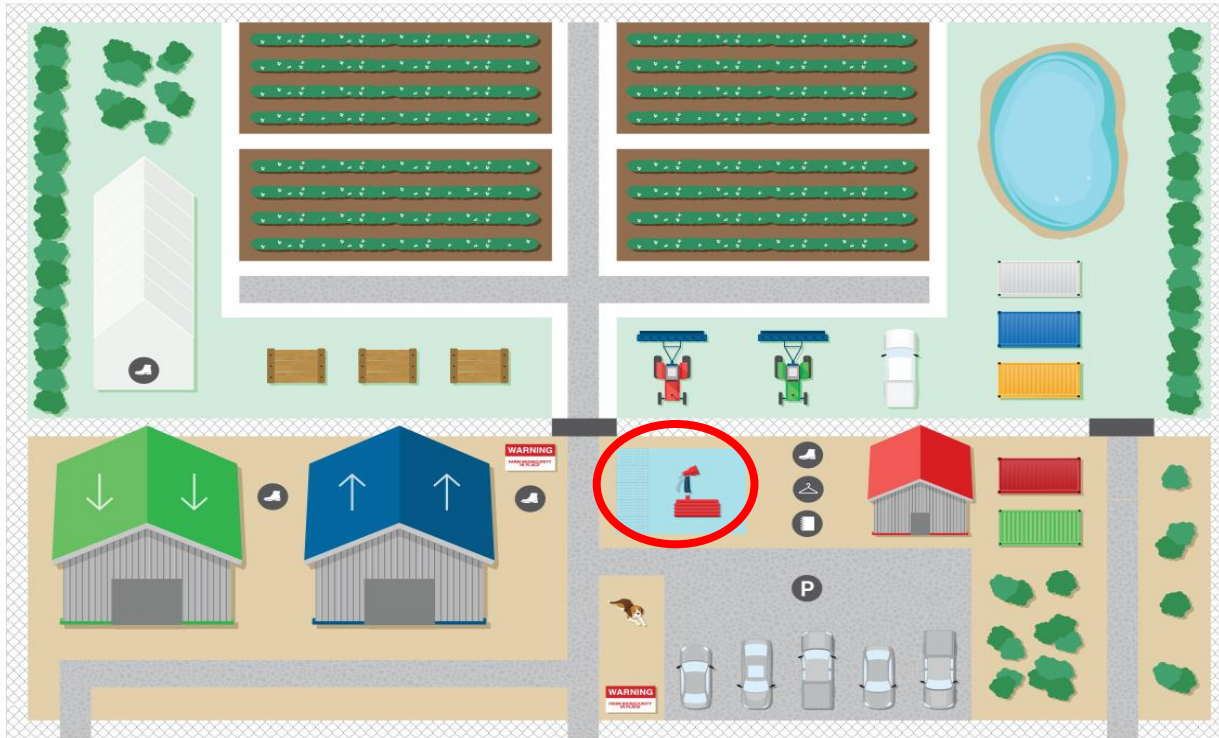
Conduct farm operations from areas of low disease towards areas of high disease.

How difficult would it be for you to consistently work from one block to another?

- A. Very Easy
- B. Easy
- C. Moderate
- D. Difficult
- E. Very Difficult



Wash Down Areas



All equipment and vehicles should be clean prior to entry onto the property.

Wash Down Vehicles and Equipment



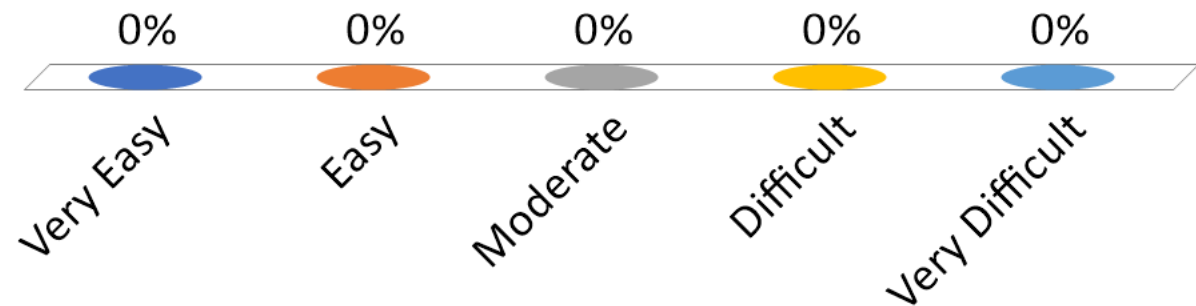
On-farm Equipment



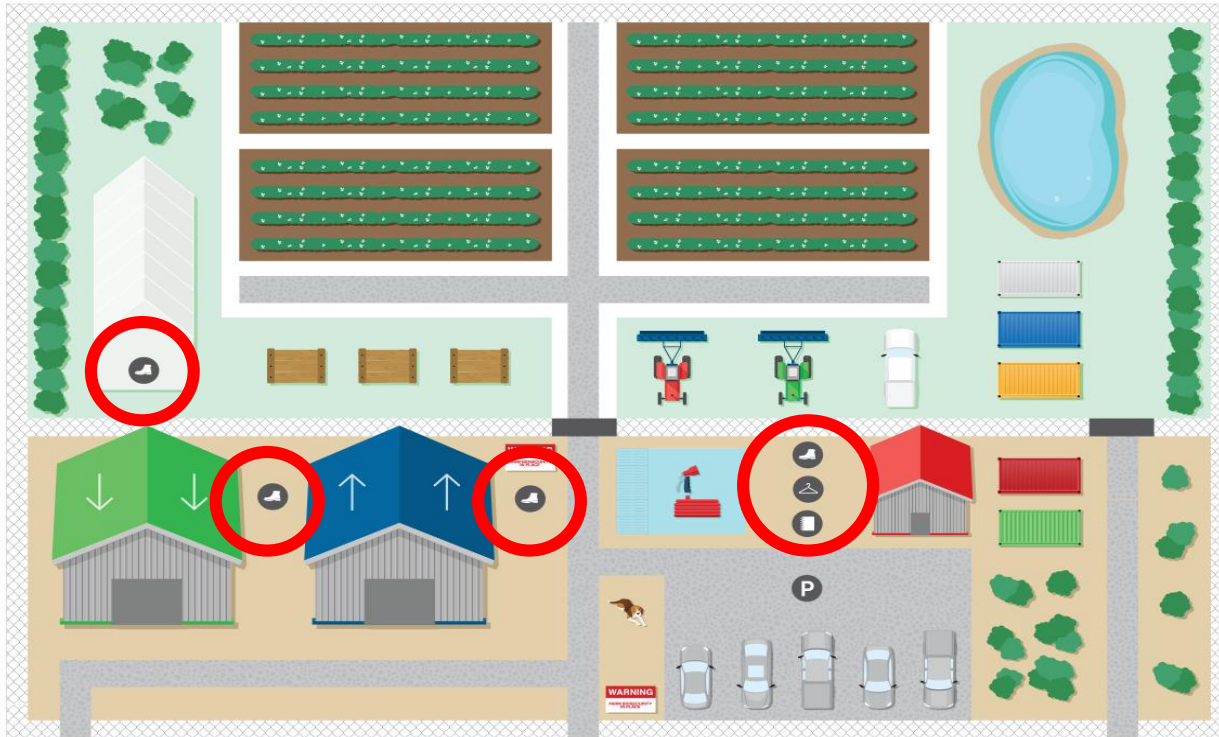
Clean equipment
between sites
and paddocks.

How difficult would it be for you to wash down your equipment?

- A. Very Easy
- B. Easy
- C. Moderate
- D. Difficult
- E. Very Difficult



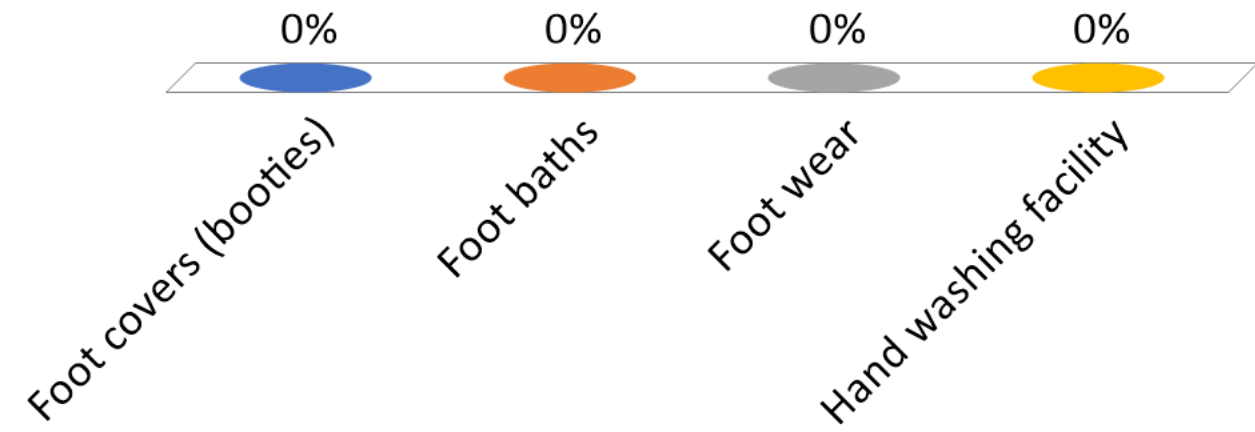
Employee and Visitor Hygiene



Provide hand washing facilities, foot baths and footwear for visitors and employees.

Could you provide any of these for your staff and visitors?

- A. Foot covers (booties)
- B. Foot baths
- C. Foot wear
- D. Hand washing facility



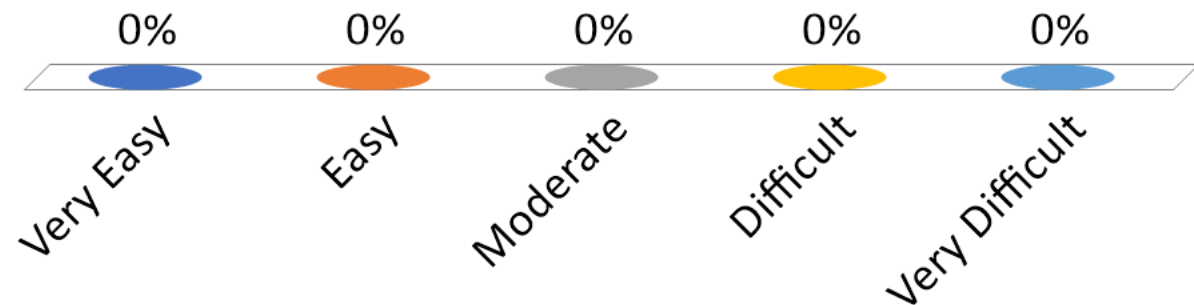
Weeds and Inter-row Crops



Dispose of weeds
away from production
areas.

How difficult would it be for you to dispose of weeds away from your production areas?

- A. Very Easy
- B. Easy
- C. Moderate
- D. Difficult
- E. Very Difficult



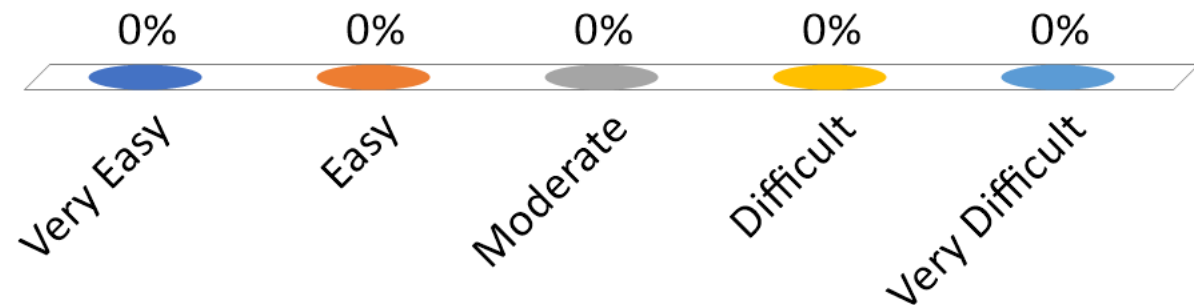
Removal of Infected Strawberry Plants



Remove infected strawberry plants and crowns from production sites and destroy them.

How difficult would it be for you to remove old/dead strawberry debris?

- A. Very Easy
- B. Easy
- C. Moderate
- D. Difficult
- E. Very Difficult



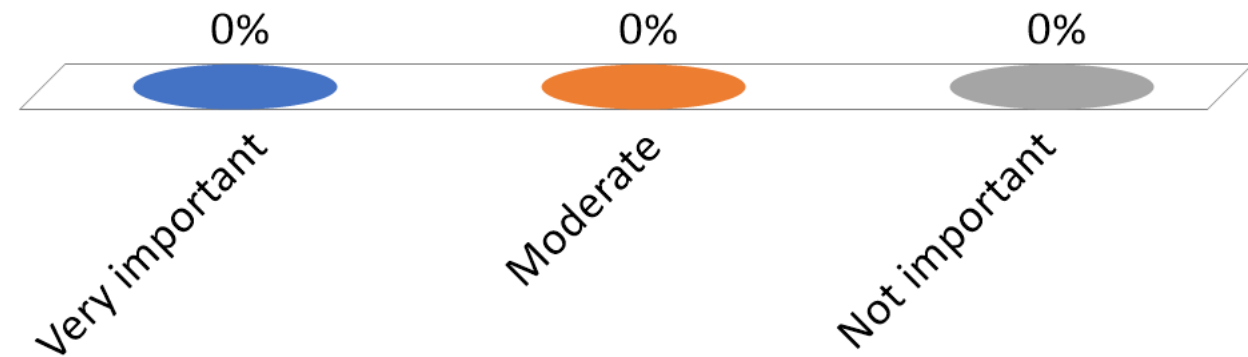
Certified Strawberry Runners



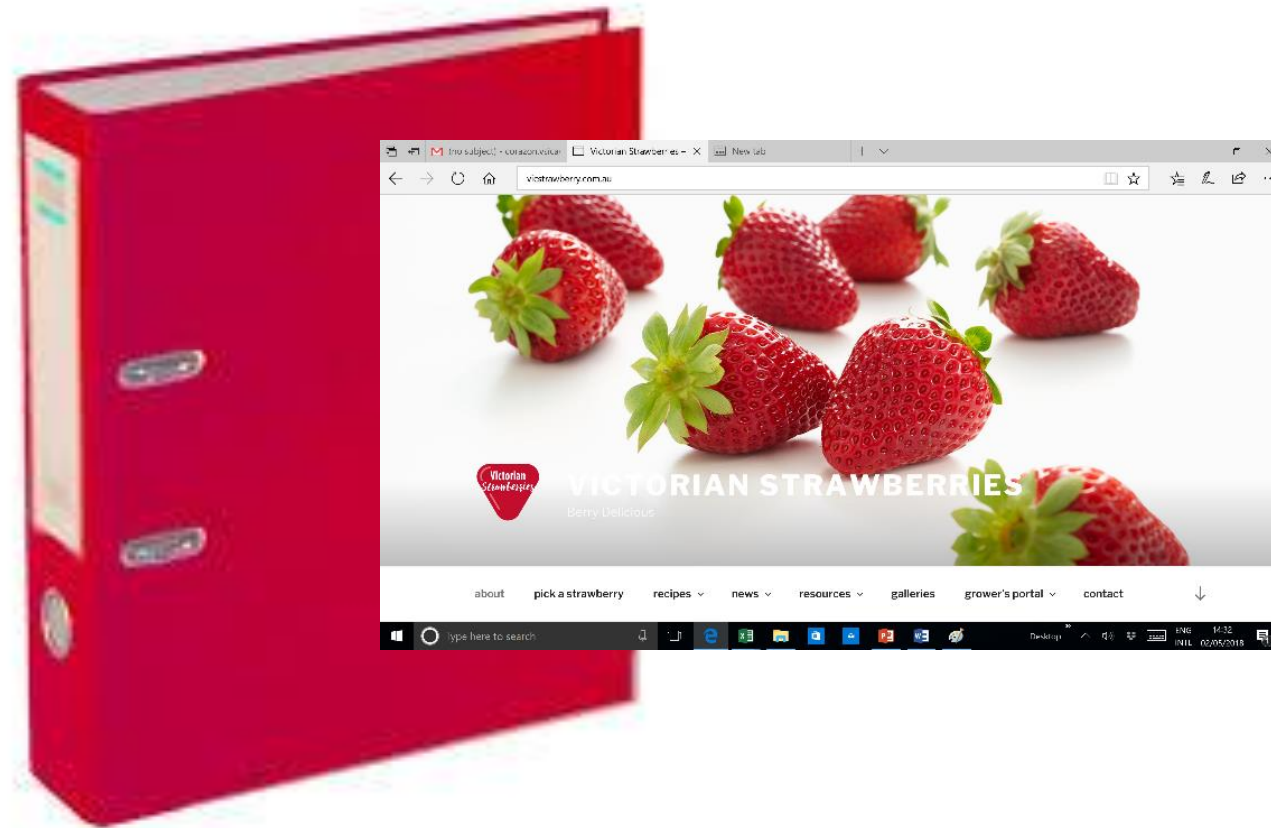
Use Certified runners, which are tested and inspected for pathogens.

How important do you think it is to use certified planting material (i.e. pathogen tested)?

- A. Very important
- B. Moderate
- C. Not important



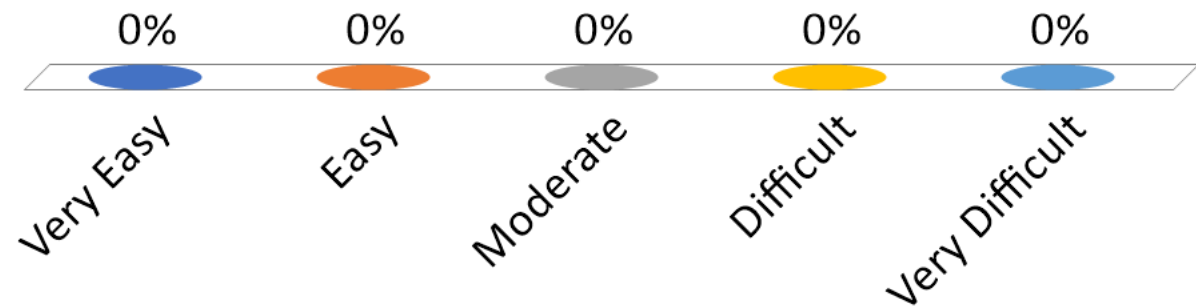
Staff and Visitor Induction and Information



Induct all staff in hygiene practices. You are the owner and can be clear about your expectations.

How difficult would it be for you to teach your staff about these hygiene practices?

- A. Very Easy
- B. Easy
- C. Moderate
- D. Difficult
- E. Very Difficult



Summary

- Farm biosecurity is designed to protect a property from the entry and spread of pests, diseases and weeds.
- Each biosecurity practice will help to reduce the risk of disease.

Thank you