



# TIPS FOR TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT

Tools and equipment are potential sources of contamination and should, therefore, be treated properly to minimize the transmission of disease. Pruning implements can transfer fire blight and crown gall, spreading it to other plants or blocks. Nematodes and soil borne diseases can be easily transferred via soil. Virus inoculum and weed seeds may also be present and transferred in the soil. Tools and equipment used in one group of animals can carry disease or parasites into another flock or herd.

Follow the below tips to help keep tools and equipment clean and free of potential contamination.

## EQUIPMENT

- **Sanitize tools and equipment being brought onto the farm, being moved between field/orchard/vineyard blocks, or between barns**
- **Ensure large chunks of soil are knocked off tires, disks, etc. before leaving the field**
- **Have a designated washing area for equipment**
  - » Choose a location with good drainage, away from the main travel routes on the farm
  - » Wash area should be located close to the farm entrance
- **Limit recreational vehicle use, especially in areas with a known disease risk**
- **Avoid driving equipment and vehicles through puddles and wet soil when possible**
- **Use equipment logs to record machinery use, cleaning and any use restrictions**
- **Rough cleaning removes 90-95% of soil/contaminants, washing with compressed air/pressure washer removes 99%, mist on disinfectant 99.9%**
  - » Leave disinfectant on for recommended contact time for desired efficacy; refer to the product label for specific requirements
- **In between fields: kicking off the dirt, knocking loose dirt off tractor and using a clean exit can remove 80% of soil.**
- **Use a clean exit: fold up equipment and travel to this exit to leave the field**

## HAND TOOLS

- **Clean/disinfect tools between units/barns**
  - » Crops, blocks, rows of plants, etc.
  - » Species, age groups, etc.
- **Small tools should remain in one area or building to prevent contamination between building (i.e. shovels, forks, etc.)**
- **Tools that are shared between buildings or animal age groups should be sanitized at each transfer**
- **Designate tools to be used only for production areas that are affected by pests or disease**
- **Always work with infected plants and animals last**

## STORAGE CONTAINERS

- **All reusable storage containers (wooden bins, plastic totes, etc.) should be properly cleaned and sterilized between uses**
  - » The material of the container will determine appropriate sterilization products and procedures

## CUSTOM CONTRACTING AND LAND RENTAL

- **Discuss biosecurity expectations with leasor/leasee/contractor**
- **Inspect borrowed/shared equipment before arrival to ensure soil, manure, and plant material has been removed**
- **Ask the custom operator to clean equipment before arrival**
- **If the risk of disease transmission is high, consider not purchasing or renting the equipment or land**

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