

Inter-Island Biosecurity

Biosecurity goes beyond stopping nasties at the border. Although that is a big part of our work, we also try to prevent the spread of invasives within the Islands. Some invasive species here in the Falklands have not spread throughout the islands, or have been eradicated in certain areas. Some islands and farms are cat, rat, mouse or even earwig-free! Not to mention calafate and thistles.

Movement between farms and islands, including the shipping of cargo, vehicles and people is one way for invasive species to spread. Workboat Services and FIG are working together to minimise the risk of transferring hitchhikers on the ferry but there are some things you can do to help. When you're next travelling on the ferry, or moving cargo, think:

Could there be anything stowed away in the cargo that someone else might not want?



A quick check of the cargo before it leaves could save a neighbour a real headache. Check in corners of containers and boxes, nooks and crannies and be aware of preferred hiding places of rodents, bugs and weed seeds. Use plastic boxes rather than cardboard boxes if possible, to make it less inviting for bugs.



Equally important is for those lucky places without certain invasives to really think about where every import and visitor is coming from. Make sure you thoroughly check all cargoes that are coming in for invasive species and maybe think about setting up a monitoring system so you can get an early warning if anything has snuck in that you don't want.

If you want to chat about setting up a monitoring programme, developing a farm or Island-specific biosecurity plan, or have any other questions, please contact the DoA
Email: biosecurity@doa.gov.fk or phone: 27355