

Grower case study

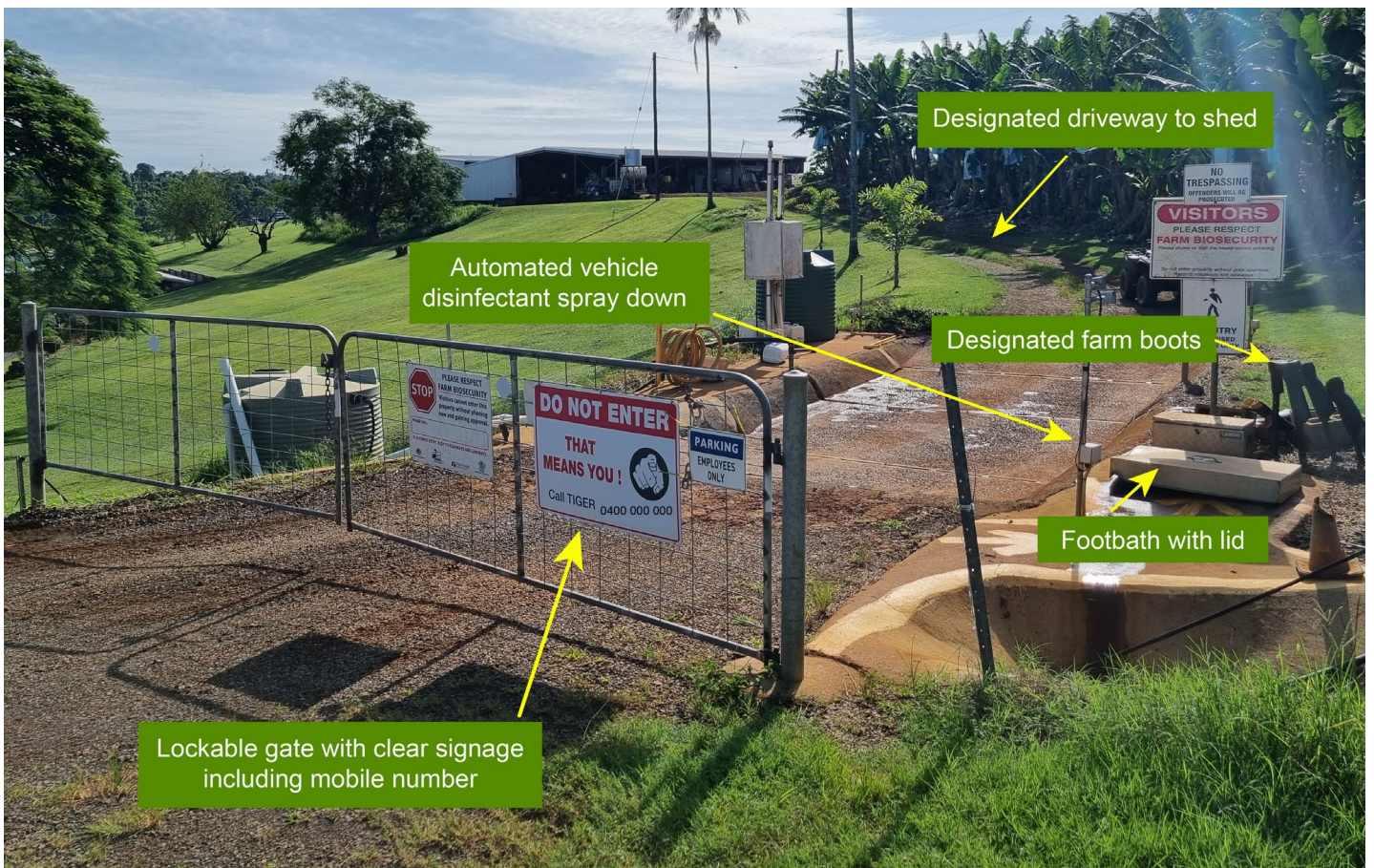
Tiger Mereider has more than just his footbath covered.

John Mereider, better known as Tiger, has been farming in the East Palmerston area for over 23 years. He is no stranger to biosecurity, having endured Panama disease race 1 on his farm when he grew Ducasse and some Lady Fingers in his early years on the block. Back then he built a drive through vehicle dip to help protect his farm. So, when Panama disease tropical race 4 was detected in Tully in 2015, Tiger didn't hesitate in quickly putting more on-farm biosecurity practices in place to protect his farm.



Tiger Mereider showing his covered footbath

This included converting his existing drive through dip into an automated disinfectant spray down facility for vehicles. Pick-up and delivery trucks accessing the packing shed drive through this automated spray facility and are disinfected with Steri-max. Movement of these vehicles are restricted to the driveway to the shed and turn around area.



Entrance to Tiger's farm showing biosecurity infrastructure

To address the risk of the driver's footwear, Tiger installed a footbath next to the vehicle spray down. Tiger supplies drivers with a pair of boots to change into prior to using a covered footbath.

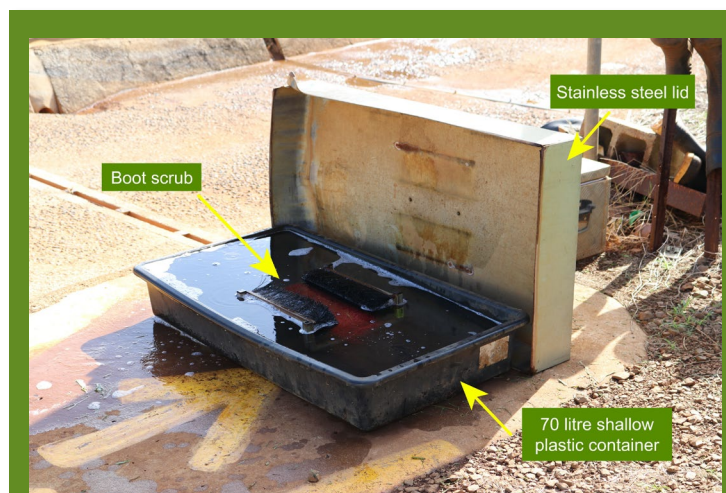
Keeping it simple, Tiger purchased a 70 litre shallow plastic tub and a boot scrubber that he placed in the footbath. Because the footbath is not undercover, he had a stainless-steel lid built with a handle to place over the plastic tub. The lid ensures that the liquid does not evaporate when the weather is sunny or diluted when it rains. All up the covered footbath cost around \$300.

Another important consideration for Tiger was placing the footbath on a concrete surface to reduce contamination and make cleaning easier. He also painted large arrows on the concrete to direct traffic.

Tiger changes the disinfectant in the footbath every 2 weeks to ensure it is effective. He has used Quaternary Ammonium test strips to check the concentration of his footbath solution and is confident that it is doing the job when changed at this frequency.

Tiger said, *'The pickup and delivery drivers are good and always use the footbath, but I think it helps that I can see the footbath from the packing shed.'*

In addition to his vehicle spray down and footbath, Tiger's entrance to his farm is gated and clearly signed to limit unauthorised access.



Simple footbath design with lid



Footbath located on hard paved surface

For more information contact:

The National Banana Development and Extension Team
Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
South Johnstone
07 4220 4152 or email
betterbananas@daf.qld.gov.au

Thank you to Tiger Mereider for providing his time and giving permission to use this case study for the benefit of the wider industry.

Visit the Better Bananas website for more examples of on-farm biosecurity practices!

betterbananas.com.au

This case study has been produced as part of project BA19004 the National Banana Development and Extension Program which is funded by Hort Innovation, using the banana industry research and development levies and contributions from the Australian Government. Hort Innovation is the grower-owned, not-for-profit research and development corporation for Australian horticulture. The Queensland Government has also co-funded the project through the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Horticulture Innovation Australia (Hort Innovation) and the Queensland Government make no representations and expressly disclaim all warranties (to the extent permitted by law) about the accuracy, completeness, or currency of information in this case study. Reliance on any information provided by Hort Innovation and the Queensland Government is entirely at your own risk. Hort Innovation and the Queensland Government are not responsible for, and will not be liable for, any loss, damage, claim, expense, cost (including legal costs) or other liability arising in any way (including from Hort Innovation and the Queensland Government or any other person's negligence or otherwise) from your use or non-use of this case study or from reliance on information contained in the material or that Hort Innovation and the Queensland Government provides to you by any other means.