

When visiting farms, or any other land from which we have been granted access for the purpose of flying activities, please keep in mind that access is a MASSIVE privilege. We must do all we can to avoid anything that might cause us to lose the generosity of the landowner.

1. Leave gates EXACTLY as you found them. Keep closed gates closed and opened gates open, even if you're just quickly driving in and out for a retrieve.
2. Pay CLOSE attention to all locked gates and ensure that you lock them in the EXACT manner that you found them (see pics below)
3. The first person of the day to reach any closed gate/lock should take a photo (close-up of the latch and chain) and share it on the relevant region WhatsApp group. Anyone else going through the gate can then check that they leave it exactly as per the picture. The last person to leave for the day should check that the gate is latched exactly as shown in the first picture and also take and upload a picture of how it is left.
This affords THPA and its members some level of "insurance" that we are leaving gates as we have found them.
4. Whoever gained permission from the owner should post on the WhatsApp group for that region so others know that flying is allowed that day and don't pester the farmer further. If you are about to fly but no permission has been posted don't ASSUME it's ok... ask in the group or check with the owner.
5. You are visiting a working farm and a business. You are a guest on the farm. Please show due respect to all people, livestock, crops and the property. Obey any farm/land rules and signs as displayed and respect the environment/property.
6. Leave your pets at home unless the farm specifies that pets are welcome.
7. Stick to established tracks or roads (don't drive across paddocks), drive slowly near stock and park your vehicle in designated areas. Do not block gates. Don't attempt to drive through soft or boggy ground.
8. For your own safety and to respect our visitation rights at the property, visit only areas identified for the purpose of flying.
9. Do not photograph or publish images of farm operations, equipment, stock or infrastructure. Landowners are becoming more sensitive to any negative image that might be conveyed even if unintentional.
10. Do not land near stock, machinery or on crops. Walk to the edge of the paddock to pack up and walk along fence-lines. Use gates, stiles or big strainer/corner posts where possible to cross fences.
11. Should your children visit with you, please clearly explain the rules and expected behaviours to them and the importance of respecting them. Take home any rubbish that you have brought. Lower any windsocks or streamers that aren't permanent fixtures before you leave.

12. Avoid driving through long dry grass. It causes both a risk of fire and also of collecting grass/weed seeds in the chassis which might be transferred to another property. Also regularly empty grass seeds from your wing at home to avoid transferring to new properties.

Lambing Closures

The closure of farm sites for lambing season is incredibly important for the viability of newly born lambs. Even a small disturbance that separates mum and lamb could result in the loss of the lamb. A farmer has already spent about \$50 just to get a lamb born. If it dies they miss out on about \$250 if sold at 1 year for meat, or years of ongoing income for a wool-breed like merinos (common around the midlands)

As a guide, use these clearance distances:

- Over-flying 200m+ AGL
- Landing 500m+
- Walking past 200m+

Always check for sheep before landing and plan your exit to the road to avoid other flocks, preferring laneways and fence-lines. Use Google Map satellite view or Google Earth.

Some ewes can be more or less sensitive, so always check:

- A ewe will stand tall and look at you, ears up, when she is starting to get nervous. Increase your distance.
- If you suddenly notice they're moving away you're too close. Stop immediately. Walk away and find another route.
- Do not drive vehicles into paddocks with sheep. Walk out to the road to get retrieved.

The closed periods for our THPA sites are posted each winter, but lambing happens at different times in various regions so ALWAYS be mindful to land well away from any lambs if you manage an XC in late winter/spring.

Locks & Chains

Some THPA sites have locked access, shared by other users. We have our own lock in the "lock-chain". Contact Terry Dalby for a key.

Locks and chains should be left in a manner so that all users of the property can independently get access.

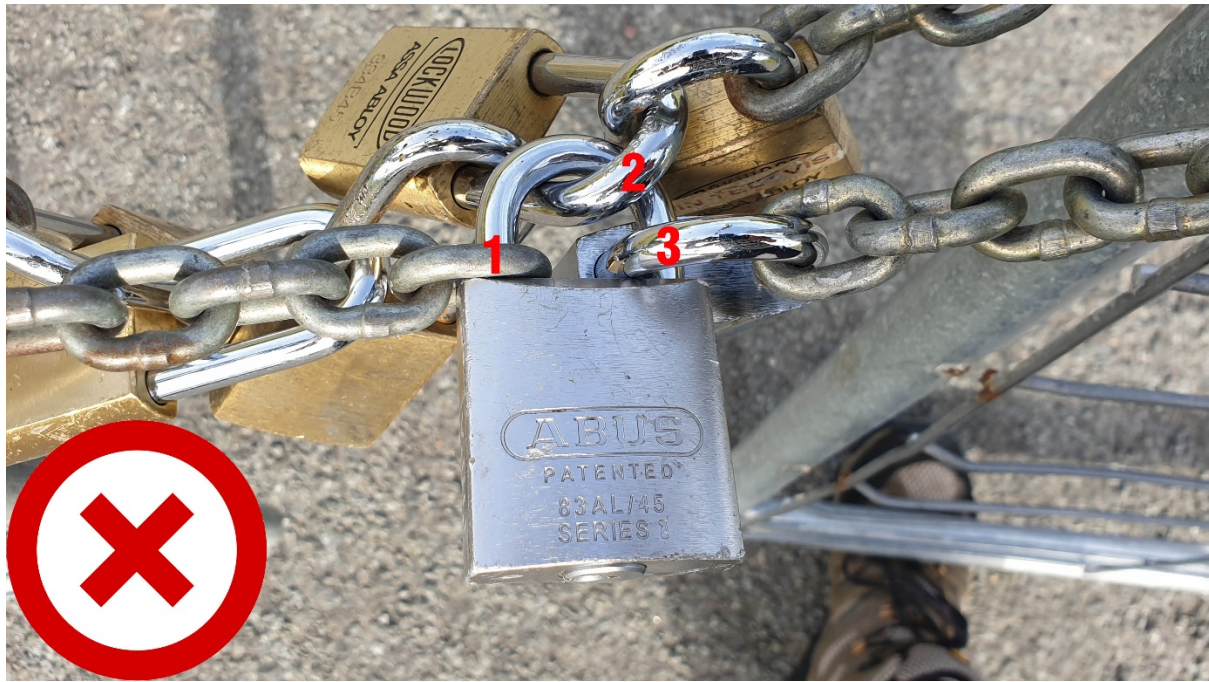
Please study the following images.



The image above show the correct way to leave locks, particularly where multiple locks are present. Note that our THPA lock should only ever attach two points - in this case, the next lock and the last link in the chain. This ensures all users maintain access to properties.



If multiple locks are present, all locks should still only lock to two points. The above image shows how a “lock daisy chain” is formed when there are several locks. This system ensures that if any one lock in the chain is opened, it allows access for that party. When returned correctly, multiple users can access a property by opening their own link in the “chain”.



The image above shows an INCORRECT installation of a lock. In this instance, one or more users MAY be locked out of the property until the lock that has been attached to three (or more) points has been removed.