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Pre-stocking Readiness Checklist

Pond preparation, inputs, and early-cycle surveillance for stronger shrimp biosecurity

Before post-larvae go anywhere near water, the right preparation can make all the difference. A strong pre-stocking plan helps reduce pathogen risk, improve input control, and set up cleaner, more confident production from day one.

This checklist is designed to support best-practice pond preparation, input screening, and early-cycle surveillance — so farms can stock with clearer visibility.

Tick or cross each box below

Pond preparation

- ☐ Remove sludge, waste, and organic build-up from previous cycles
- ☐ Inspect pond liners, gates, drains and infrastructure for damage or contamination risk and repair accordingly.
- ☐ Confirm pond layout supports clean water flow between ponds and minimises cross-contamination
- ☐ Dry, clean, and prepare ponds in line with farm biosecurity protocols
- ☐ Verify pond treatment, disinfection, and preparation steps have been completed and recorded
- ☐ Review staff hygiene, equipment cleaning, and movement controls before stocking begins

Water and environmental readiness

- ☐ Confirm incoming water source is understood and managed for biosecurity risk
- ☐ Test or review source water, reservoir water, and/or treated water before use
- ☐ Check water treatment systems are functioning as intended
- ☐ Confirm aeration, circulation, and other key systems are operational before stocking
- ☐ Review any environmental risk points that could introduce pathogens before or during stocking

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Input readiness

- [ ] Verify the health status of post-larvae before dispatch and/or stocking
- [ ] Confirm PL testing has been completed using appropriate PCR pathogen panels
- [ ] Check broodstock, hatchery, or supplier health records where relevant
- [ ] Review feed, probiotics, additives, and other inputs for source, quality, and handling risk
- [ ] Ensure high-risk inputs have been screened or reviewed before use
- [ ] Confirm storage conditions for feed and inputs reduce contamination risk

Pathogen testing before stocking

- [ ] Test post-larvae for priority pathogens before they enter the farm
- [ ] Use a multi-pathogen screening approach where possible to reduce blind spots
- [ ] Confirm testing is completed early enough to inform real stocking decisions
- [ ] Review any recent hatchery, nursery, or source-farm health trends before stocking
- [ ] Ensure results are interpreted in context, with action thresholds agreed in advance

Operational biosecurity readiness

- [ ] Confirm movement pathways for people, equipment, water, and animals are understood and controlled
- [ ] Review vehicle, footwear, and visitor entry controls
- [ ] Check disinfection points are stocked, working, and being used correctly
- [ ] Ensure staff understand pre-stocking procedures and escalation pathways if a risk is identified
- [ ] Confirm traceability records are ready for stock origin, pond allocation, and sampling history

Early-cycle surveillance plan

- [ ] Establish a sampling plan for the first days and weeks after stocking
- [ ] Define what will be sampled, when, and why — including animals, water, and environmental points where relevant
- [ ] Schedule early surveillance to detect issues before clinical signs or production losses escalate
- [ ] Use repeat testing to monitor pathogen presence, trend shifts, and emerging risk
- [ ] Ensure results can be reviewed quickly enough to support timely management decisions

Ready-to-stock decision

YES / NO	Pond preparation completed
YES / NO	Inputs reviewed and approved
YES / NO	Pre-stocking pathogen testing completed
YES / NO	Early-cycle surveillance plan in place
YES / NO	Farm team aligned on go / no-go decision criteria before stocking proceeds

Unchecked boxes? Don't ignore them.
Even a small issue before stocking can create a much bigger problem later in the cycle. Contact Genics today to strengthen your pre-stocking testing and surveillance plan.

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