

## FOR INFORMATION &amp; DISCUSSION

NAHIP Advisory Committee Annual Meeting 2024

Agenda Item 2.2

Last updated: **10 May 2024**

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**INTENSIVE INDUSTRY REPORT****RECOMMENDATION**

1. That the NAHI Advisory Committee NOTE:
  - a. A new author's appointment as intensive industry representative is a recent development.
  - b. There has not been an opportunity for the intensive industries to agree on expectations of the NAHIP, nor possible extensions or modifications.
  - c. The surveillance updates provided by the intensive industries.

**BACKGROUND**

2. Animal Health Australia (AHA) facilitates innovative partnerships between governments, major livestock sectors and other stakeholders to protect animal health and the sustainability of Australia's livestock industry.
3. The AHA Industry Forum (IF) provides a platform for industry representatives to discuss livestock health, welfare and biosecurity matters of common interest.
4. This paper aims to provide a brief overview of surveillance activities and/or reporting from an industry perspective. It will also aim to highlight areas where NAHIP may be able to better assist industry members in these surveillance programs.

**DISCUSSION****5. Australian Pork Limited (APL) Evidence of Absence Surveillance Project**

To date, APL is satisfied with the progress stated in the NAHIP Business Plan 2022-25.

Currently, the Evidence of Absence program is managed by AHA for APL on a 3-year contract. In the past this program had been successful getting samples submitted from vets. However, uptake of the surveillance program in the last 12 months continue to be poor.

**6. Avian influenza (AI) Surveillance project**

Wildlife Health Australia operates the AI surveillance project. In the last few months, HPAI has now globally spread to wild birds and wildlife (except Australia and New Zealand). In March this year, HPAI has now infected dairy cows in the USA (first known case). AI surveillance continues to be an important tool for the poultry industry. As pigs are capable of being infected by AI, it has been recognised that this program is also important for our industry. There is also benefit to the pork industry to be engaged and be made aware of the results of the surveillance of migratory birds due to the potential cross over of AI into pigs.

In the last financial year, DAFF had increased funding to Wildlife Health Australia (WHA) for an enhanced surveillance program on wild birds during the peak migration season. The increase in funding is both highly appreciated and valuable. The intensive industries would like to acknowledge the contribution from DAFF for ongoing funding support to enable the most number of surveillance points to be undertaken to provide industries a clear picture of circulating diseases (or absence of) in wild birds coming into the country.

**7. Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV) surveillance**

Previously, JEV surveillance programs are conducted by the State health departments. Most of these surveillances had been pulled back. Latest surveillance was conducted by Ag Vic and all samples were

came back negative. APL would like to see the continuation of these programs for the benefit of humans and pigs and would like to see the data and analysis from these programs shared to support accurate and up to date industry action and messaging.

#### 8. Australian Duck Meat Association (ADMA) Surveillance of imported duck eggs into Australia

Retorted duck eggs were imported into Australia from Taiwan and China are predominately sold in Asian food stores. The duck eggs from these countries are often leaking within the packaging and could indicate a compromise in the retorting process. The Australian poultry industries could be impacted by any disease if the eggs are not correctly treated.

ADMA had requested DAFF to conduct testing on the product specifically in relation to the issue of protein chemistry that illustrates compliance with the retorting process. DAFF had advised the duck egg samples will undergo commercial sterility testing which includes trying to culture any viable microorganisms from the samples. If successful in culturing microorganisms, will try to identify the species. The presence, level and type of viable microorganisms will help determine if the product had been properly retorted.

The testing to be undertaken is not what the duck industry had requested and so have sought further information in relation to the lab's process.

DAFF had advised the retorted duck eggs tested were part of a compliance check. To date, all other recent verification activities on this commodity have not indicated non-compliance.

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9. Generally, surveillance programs are primarily funded through a cost-shared agreement with the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) and Australian state and territory government agencies they also receive significant financial or in-kind contributions from surveillance partners such as industry, non-government organisations and universities.

### CONSULTATION/COMMUNICATION

10. Due to time constraints around the appointment of a new intensive industry representative, broader consultation with Industry Forum members was not conducted.
11. Future consideration and discussion on NAHIP with broader Industry Forum members will be needed leading into 2025. It will be recommended that communication on the development of these updates needs to occur as a standing agenda item at Industry Forum meetings.

### NEXT STEPS/ACTIONS

12. Through AHA IF, a standing agenda item or calendar may permit forward planning regarding future consultation with its members regarding NAHIP.

Attachment A: N/A

### FEEDBACK

13.

| Q1 My organisation's needs and expectations of the NAHIP are being met.                                                                  |       |           |          |                   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-----------|----------|-------------------|
| Strongly agree                                                                                                                           | Agree | Undecided | Disagree | Strongly disagree |
| Further consultation with industry representatives is warranted to facilitate a better understanding of industry needs and satisfaction. |       |           |          |                   |

| Q2 My organisation is satisfied that the outputs of NAHIP, such as the Animal Health in Australia report are Animal Health Surveillance Quarterly, are credible and robust. |       |                  |          |                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|------------------|----------|-------------------|
| Strongly agree                                                                                                                                                              | Agree | <b>Undecided</b> | Disagree | Strongly disagree |
| Further consultation with industry representatives is warranted to ascertain the strength of NAHIP outputs.                                                                 |       |                  |          |                   |

| Q3 The format and protocols in place for uploading and transferring national surveillance data are fit for purpose. |       |           |          |                   |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-----------|----------|-------------------|
| Strongly agree                                                                                                      | Agree | Undecided | Disagree | Strongly disagree |
| N/A.                                                                                                                |       |           |          |                   |

| Q4 NAHIP satisfies national surveillance data and reporting requirements. (Please outline any requirements not being met). |       |                  |          |                   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|------------------|----------|-------------------|
| Strongly agree                                                                                                             | Agree | <b>Undecided</b> | Disagree | Strongly disagree |
|                                                                                                                            |       |                  |          |                   |