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Dear Ian,

Following is the report from the Animal Biosecurity Emergency Animal Disease webinar program that was relaunched by the NSW Department of Primary Industries in July 2021.

NSW DPI previously conducted face-to-face EAD seminars in various regions around the state. However due to logistics, resourcing limitations and the need to reach remote private veterinary practitioners, this program was moved to an online webinar format in 2019 where it was managed on the Redback digital platform. The decision was made to move the webinars to the Tocal College online learning management system for the 2020-21 program. In addition, three new presentations were added on African Horse Sickness, Ehrlichia canis and Lumpy Skin Disease.

The webinar program is designed to increase the knowledge, skill and confidence of private veterinarians in:

- identifying significant disease events,
- being aware of notifiable and emergency animal diseases,
- notifying, and collaborating with, NSW government veterinary authorities of potential notifiable and emergency animal diseases,
- using appropriate personal protective equipment,
- conducting appropriate necropsies and collecting and submitting appropriate samples to the NSW State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory,
- obtaining thorough case histories and collecting appropriate epidemiological information.

The current webinar program is a series of 15 pre-recorded presentations and two live Q&A sessions where participants were able to ask questions of the presenters and hear responses to questions submitted in the online modules.

Financials

All funding was provided by the NSDIP program. The webinar series is now managed on the NSW DPI Tocal College course platform. The cost to relaunch and host the webinar program on the Tocal platform was \$7,000 AUD (excluding GST). Funding was used to cover the cost of 100 student places on the course for a period of 12 months, including support from the Tocal eLearning team.

NSW Department of Primary Industries staff hours for recording additional content, program facilitation and live Q&A session facilitation were provided as in-kind support for this project.

Attendance

The 100 available places were filled within one week of the program launch. Of these, 14 people are NSW government employees, 4 Victorian government employees, with the remaining participants being private veterinary practitioners, veterinary students, para-veterinary staff, government and other professions.

Due to the number of presentations forming the program the topics were divided between the two Q&A sessions. The first Q&A session was held on August 5, with 11 participants. The second session was held on August 26, with 5 participants and others requesting a recording as they were unable to make the session. Recordings of these sessions are now available on the Tocal course site.

In order to be eligible for structured CPD points for the program, veterinarians are required to view all 15 presentations for 6 points after which the Tocal system unlocks a certificate verifying course completion. Attendance at both Q&A sessions was required for an additional 1.5 points, which will be verified via email.

Presentations will remain available until the end of June 2022 for those enrolled in the first round. They will be available to the second student cohort for 12 months once these places are released (expected September 2021).

Feedback

There was a relatively tight turnaround between launching the webinars and this report; 7 survey responses have been received to date. Results from the feedback survey are attached.

Of the participants who completed the survey:

- >70% of respondents felt the content was relevant/useful to their role, and feel better prepared to investigate a possible emergency animal disease following participation in the program,
- 85% of respondents felt the webinar was a good use of their time and
- >70% of respondents are likely to discuss the content with their colleagues and would recommend the webinar series to others.

We will continue to seek feedback on the webinars via the survey throughout the remaining duration of the program.

Ongoing program

AHA has granted a further \$3,500 for an additional 100 student enrolments.

The initial enrolment method on the Tocal College platform allowed anyone who accessed the course link to enrol, therefore we were not able to prioritise placements. Access to the additional places will be by invite only. Interested parties must register their interest in the course through an Expression of Interest form which contains details about their profession & state of residence. This allows prioritisation of NSW PVPs initially, then remaining places will be offered to others who have registered.

The Q&A sessions can be hosted & facilitated by DPI staff at no cost, so there is the possibility of hosting further sessions later in the year for those who could not attend the first sessions or who enrolled in the second cohort.

Please do not hesitate to contact NSW DPI for any further information.

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