

NSW disease investigation and emergency animal disease training proposal - NSDIP 2021-2022

Project Overview

NSW Department of Primary Industries has conducted EAD webinars and engaged with more than 80 private veterinarians, para-veterinary staff and veterinary students in the last twelve months, through the provision of NSDIP funding in 2020-2021.

The aim of the proposed training is to continue the engagement and increase the competence and confidence of remote non-government (private) veterinarians in the recognition of significant disease events, appropriate disease investigation and collaboration with NSW government veterinarians through a series of webinars and live online discussions.

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. This online format helps capture those vets in remote areas who are more difficult to engage with via face-to-face seminars, but who are key to our EAD surveillance.

Objectives and Scope

To increase the knowledge, skill and confidence of private veterinarians in:

- identifying significant disease events,
- being aware of notifiable diseases 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 objectives of this proposal are consistent with NSDI Program Objectives:

1. To improve the quality and increase the quantity of livestock and wildlife disease investigations conducted by non-government veterinary practitioners in collaboration with governments;
2. To promote effective collaboration between non-government veterinary practitioners and Governments in livestock and wildlife disease investigations

Outcomes

It is anticipated that subsequent to viewing the pre-recorded presentations and participating in the live Q&A sessions, there will be an increase in the number of appropriate disease investigations, submission of appropriate samples to the NSW State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory at Elizabeth McArthur Agriculture Institute (EMAI) and notifications to NSW government veterinary authorities by the participants.

Outputs

- An additional 150 places made available on the webinar program in early 2022 (available for a period of 12 months)
- Two live panel sessions will be hosted for participants to engage in a Q&A style discussion
- Two new presentations will be recorded (on additional topics) OR updated presentations recorded if required (e.g. replacing presentations with updated policy & procedural information)

Methods

We will continue to use internal NSW platforms and will utilise the Tocal College learning management system to host the material already developed in existing presentations.

Delivery of live Q&A sessions will be through a Microsoft Teams environment or similar. These events will be promoted to the PVPs to register their interest. On the day, all our presenters will login using their own computers and/or phone to address live questions. The Q&A sessions can be recorded and made available post-session on the Tocal College platform.

Post-webinar/discussion surveys will be conducted.

Topics presented are as below:

- African Horse Sickness
- African Swine Fever – What a vet should know
- Antimicrobial resistance: veterinarians, health professionals and the community
- Brucella suis in dogs
- Collecting and submitting samples for veterinary testing
- Ehrlichia canis
- Hendra Virus
- Lumpy Skin Disease
- Lyssavirus and companion animals
- Management of unusual non-native animals in NSW
- Poultry Emergency Animal Diseases
- Reporting an emergency animal disease
- The Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy (TSE) Freedom Assurance Program & Prion Diseases
- Wildlife Mass Mortalities
- Zoonosis

Timeframe and Schedule

The two live discussions will be conducted by Friday 29th April 2022. Due to the number of presentations contained in the program, topics will be divided over the two sessions.

Surveys will be collected from participants and evaluated by Friday 27th May 2022. The webinar program content will remain available for viewing for 12 months from the program release; additional survey responses will be compiled and reported to AHA in November 2022.

Key Stakeholders and Responsibilities

- NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Biosecurity and Food Safety Branch: project management, develop advertisement, technical input
- Local Land Services: technical input and advertising the event
- Australian Veterinary Association: promote the event

Budget

Estimated cost to host 150 additional students on Tocal College learning management system	\$5,250
Cost to record additional presentation using suitable software	Nil
Cost to host live Q&A sessions online	
BALANCE, requested from NSDIP	\$5,250