

FOR INFORMATION

NSDIP Advisory Committee Annual Meeting 2021

Agenda Item 2.1

Last updated: **15 November 2021**

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Victorian NSDIP Coordinator Report**RECOMMENDATION**

1. That the NSDIP Advisory Committee NOTE:
 - a. **The report on the Victorian NSDIP 2020-2021**

BACKGROUND

2. The Agriculture Victoria Significant Disease Investigation (SDI) Program provides subsidies to private veterinarians undertaking investigations of unusual or significant disease events with contributions from the NSDIP, the Victoria Government, the Cattle, Sheep and Goat compensation funds and the Swine Compensation Fund. A subsidy (paid from the compensation funds) is also available to livestock producers to go towards the cost of consulting a private veterinary practitioner for investigations approved under the SDI Program. All testing is conducted by the state government laboratory (AgriBio) with the costs generally waived.
Additional subsidies are available to private veterinarians who undertake and report an anthrax exclusion based on the use of the rapid anthrax field test (Immunochromatographic Test or ICT).

DISCUSSION

3. There were 687 subsidised disease investigations approved by Agriculture Victoria staff in 2020-21; subsidy claims have not been submitted for all investigations in the period. Most of the investigations undertaken were in cattle and sheep (Table 1). Investigations were reasonably well distributed throughout the state and in line with livestock density distributions (Figure 1).
Victoria submitted claims to the NSDIP for 181 investigations. Figure 2 shows the location of these investigations, with the most commonly reported syndromes are shown in Table 2. Of the 181 investigations, 87 (48%) had national notifiable diseases excluded. This is an increase of 14% from last financial year.

Table 1 Investigations by species

SPECIES	NUMBER OF INVESTIGATIONS	NSDIP INVESTIGATIONS
CATTLE	240	59
SHEEP/GOAT	294	74
POULTRY	69	40
HORSES/DONKEY	44	6
PIGS	27	2
OTHER	12	
GRAND TOTAL	687	181

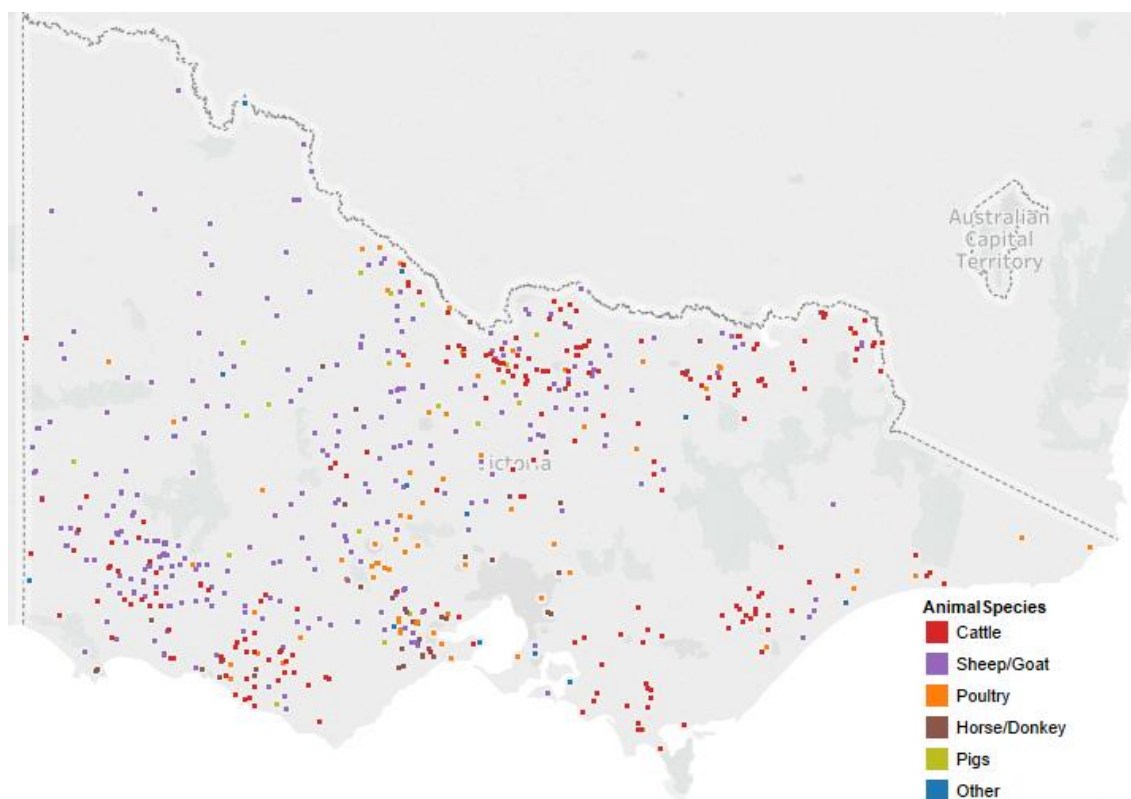


Figure 1 Geographic location of Victorian SDI investigations 2020-21

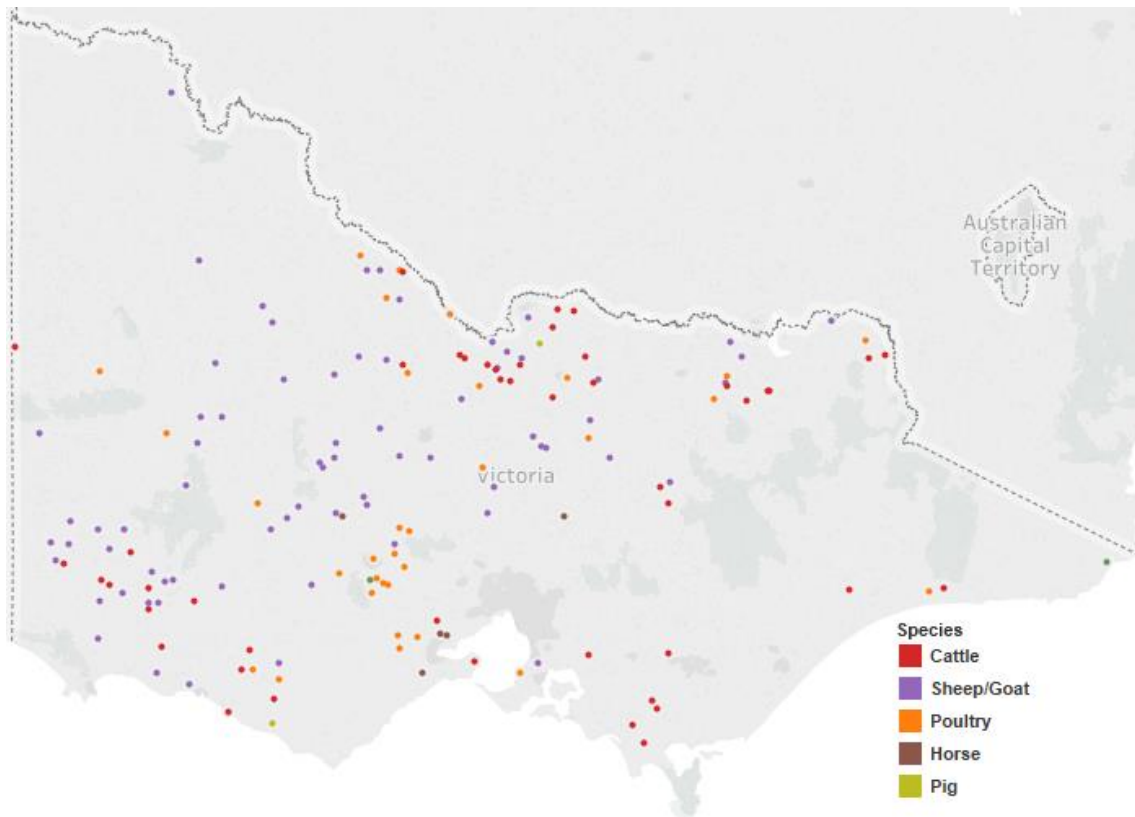


Figure 2 Geographic location of NSDIP investigations 2020-21

Table 2 Syndromes most commonly identified in Victorian NSDIP submissions (2020-21)

SYNDROME	NUMBER OF INVESTIGATIONS
INCREASED MORTALITY/SUDDEN DEATH	30
RESPIRATORY SIGNS	29
ABORTION/STILLBIRTH	28
ILL THRIFT/WEIGHT LOSS	16
NO SUITABLE SYNDROME	16
DIARRHOEA	14
FOUND DEAD	13
NERVOUS SIGNS	12
WEAKNESS/DEPRESSION/ANOREXIA/MALaise	7
LAMENESS	4
CIRCULATORY/ANAEMIA/OEDEMA	3
ALIMENTARY SIGNS OTHER THAN DIARRHOEA	2
ORAL LESIONS OR SALIVATION	2
CONGENITAL DEFECT	1
SKIN LESION	1
SKIN LESIONS	1
PRODUCTION DROP	1
INFERTILITY	1

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Stakeholder engagement is an important component of our disease investigation program. Private veterinarians can find information about the NSDIP on our [VetSource](#) website as well as in our regular newsletter [VetWatch](#). VetWatch provides regional disease statistics as well as topical case studies.

TRAINING

Victoria does not apply for funding from the NSDIP for training. We have been running Animal Disease Investigation courses for government and private animal health professionals in Victoria for more than 10 years.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4. NA

CONSULTATION/COMMUNICATION

5. NA

NEXT STEPS/ACTIONS

6. NA

FEEDBACK

7. *[Please respond to the questions below in assessing the performance of the NAHIP over the 2020–21 year, and use this as an opportunity to offer feedback and suggested changes for continual improvement.]*

Q1 My organisation's needs and expectations of the NSDIP are being met.				
Strongly agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Please explain your answer, including any suggested changes: The NSDIP provides important additional funds to support the Victorian program				

Q2 The National Significant Disease Investigation Program has provided opportunities to private veterinarians for gaining the necessary knowledge and skills to investigate and report on disease events.				
Strongly agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Please explain your answer, including any suggested changes:				

The national program complements the Victorian SDI. The program facilitates cooperation between the laboratory, Agriculture Victoria and private veterinarians. This improves the quality of the investigations by ensuring laboratory testing is not prohibited by cost fears.

Q3

The National Significant Disease Investigation Program has helped to improve the level of notifiable disease investigations through effective engagement with private veterinarians and assisting in funding investigations that may not have progressed otherwise.

Strongly agree

Agree

Undecided

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Please explain your answer, including any suggested changes:

The program gives Agriculture Victoria animal health staff the opportunity to remind the private veterinarians to always consider exclusion testing for notifiable diseases as part of their investigation.