

FOR INFORMATION

NSDIP Advisory Committee Virtual Meeting Oct 2024

Agenda Item 2.1

Last updated: **11 October 2024**

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Victoria NSDIP Coordinator report**RECOMMENDATION**

1. That the NSDIP Advisory Committee NOTE:
 - a. **Victorian NSDIP Report for 2023-24**

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 Victorian Government, the Cattle, Sheep and Goat, and Swine compensation funds. 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.
3. 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).
4. Victoria is funding a new project: 'Evaluating and enhancing disease surveillance in Victoria', which includes an independent review of Victoria's (private practitioner) veterinary surveillance system, a comprehensive survey of private veterinarians, and implementation of identified enhancements to address identified gaps.

DISCUSSION

5. A total of \$43,200 was invoiced to the NSDIP from Victoria from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024. This includes the subsidy paid to the producer and a small amount to cover the cost of the testing. Table 1 shows the number of investigations and the amount invoiced to NSDIP by species.
6. Table 2 shows the syndromes listed by species, with respiratory signs, abortion/stillbirth and increased mortality/sudden death the top 3 syndromes across all species.

Table 1. Number of investigations and amount invoiced to NSDIP.

Species	Number of investigations	Amount
Cattle	43	\$13,800
Sheep and Goat	17	\$5,100
Pig	1	\$300
Other	47	\$16,836.20
Total	108	\$36,036.20

Table 2. Number of investigations by species and syndrome invoiced to NSDIP.

Syndrome	Avian	Bovine	Caprine	Equine	Ovine	Porcine	Total
NO SUITABLE SYNDROME	6	1	3	6	2		18
RESPIRATORY SIGNS	13	4					17
ABORTION/STILLBIRTH		13			1		14
INCREASED MORTALITY/SUDDEN DEATH	3	8		1	2		14
WEAKNESS/DEPRESSION/ANOREXIA/ MALAISE	2	1		3	2		8
NERVOUS SIGNS			1	5	1	1	8
FOUND DEAD	1	3			1		5
ORAL LESIONS OR SALIVATION		3					3
SKIN LESIONS		3					3
ACUTE FEBRILE DISEASE				3			3
CIRCULATORY/ANAEMIA/OEDEMA		3					3
ILL THRIFT/WEIGHT LOSS		1			2		3
CONGENITAL DEFECT		2					2
ALIMENTARY SIGNS OTHER THAN DIARRHOEA		1		1			2
NASAL DISCHARGE	1						1
DIARRHOEA					1		1
LAMENESS					1		1
BLINDNESS	1						1
GENERALISED OEDEMA				1			1
Total	27	43	4	20	13	1	108

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7. NA

CONSULTATION/COMMUNICATION

8. NA

NEXT STEPS/ACTIONS

9. NA

FEEDBACK

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 funding to support the Victorian SDI 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 program. 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 private veterinarians to always consider exclusion testing for notifiable diseases as part of their investigation. The funding supports improved sample collection and diagnoses of investigations and increases the likelihood of a producer engaging a private veterinarian.				