

FOR INFORMATION

NAHIP Advisory Committee Annual Meeting 2023

Agenda Item 2.2

Last updated: **8 June 2023**Prepared by *AC BREED***Brief update on relevant activities and issues influencing Australia's animal health surveillance needs****RECOMMENDATION**

1. That the NAHIP Advisory Committee:
 - a. NOTE the update from the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

BACKGROUND

2. The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (the department) provides an annual paper for the information of the NAHIP Advisory Committee to:
 - provide an update for the NAHIP Advisory Committee on relevant activities of the department;
 - inform the NAHIP Advisory Committee of identified issues that may affect Australia's animal health surveillance needs; and
 - highlight areas of the NAHIP that trading partners may scrutinise and use to assess Australia's animal health status.
3. Animal surveillance underpins Australia's trade and market access, international influence, supports early detection of emergency and emerging animal diseases, and enables monitoring of significant endemic diseases.
4. In recent years, biosecurity threats have increased, and trading partners are demanding more robust evidence in support of Australia's claims about its animal health status. Trading partners and the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) are moving towards requiring sound 'evidence of absence', rather than simply 'absence of evidence' and subjecting evidence to greater scrutiny.
5. Animal Health Australia, Plant Health Australia and the department are working closely together to establish AUSPestCheck for animal health surveillance data as a replacement system for the Central Animal Health Database (CAHD) and the aquatic animal health surveillance reporting system. A key component of this work is preparing the animal health surveillance programs currently operating on the CAHD, including NAHIP, for migration onto AUSPestCheck.

DISCUSSION

6. Surveillance to demonstrate emergency animal disease and nationally notifiable animal disease exclusions in Australia is important to substantiate Australia's claimed animal health status, official status with WOAH, and support trade negotiations. Trading partners regularly question Australia's self-declared disease status. Surveillance of some form is necessary to support Australia's claims to ensure import policy is science-based, trade is not disrupted, and unnecessary import conditions are not applied to Australian animal-based exports.

7. As part of our international obligations, Australia submits a range of reports to WOAHA including immediate and follow-up notifications during disease outbreaks, six monthly and annual reports summarising our disease status and animal health systems, and annual reconfirmations for disease status officially recognised by WOAHA. Data demonstrating robust surveillance, diagnostics, and absence of disease is required for these activities.
8. NAHIP has supported requirements of the Australian Government in substantiating Australia's official and self-declared animal health status and supported trade negotiations. There are also instances where the department has experienced challenges in obtaining the data and information required.
9. The department is frequently required to provide current surveillance information to international organisations and overseas authorities. Existing surveillance data, combined with descriptive information about our system, is usually sufficient to address most of these queries. Currently, data shared with trading partners and WOAHA to substantiate Australia's health status and support market access is fragmented across multiple systems e.g. disease investigations/ exclusions in domesticated species, investigations/exclusions in wild/feral, NAQS survey data etc.

CONSULTATION/COMMUNICATION

10. Relevant areas of the department were consulted internally during the preparation of this paper.

NEXT STEPS/ACTIONS

11. Progress towards objectives (especially 3, 4 and 5) of the recently-endorsed National Animal Health Surveillance Plan (2022-2027) will help address the issues identified above.
12. DAFF continues to work closely with AHA and PHA to establish an animal health version of AUSPestCheck to replace the CAHD and aquatic animal health surveillance reporting system.

FEEDBACK

13.

Q1 My organisation's needs and expectations of the NAHIP are being met.				
Strongly agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Currently, data shared with trading partners/WOAH to substantiate Australia's health status and support market access is fragmented across multiple systems depending on the data source (e.g. disease investigations/exclusions in domesticated species, investigations/exclusions in wild/feral, NAQS survey data etc). AUSPESTCHECK/Futuremax may provide opportunities to combine the information held in the various systems more easily.				

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	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly disagree
The department and AHA have revised the structure and content of Animal Health in Australia (AHIA). AHIA and Animal Health Surveillance Quarterly are currently the primary sources of data and information used by DAFF when responding to trading partner enquiries and reporting needs.				

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

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