

NAHIP ADVISORY COMMITTEE ANNUAL MEETING 2020 MEETING RECORD

Wednesday 9th September 2020 | Videoconference

In attendance: Emily Sears (Chair – AHA), Mikhaila Nye (Record – AHA), Ian Langstaff (AHA), Andrew Breed (Aus. Gov.), Adam Robinson (Aus. Gov.), Laura Macfarlane-Berry (Aus. Gov.), Skye Fruean (NAQS), Claire Harrison (NSW), Elizabeth Stedman (NT), Janine Barrett (Qld), Greg Williamson (Qld - part), Jane Owens (SA), Sue Martin (Tas), Karen Moore (Vic), Michaela McArthur (WA), Nicole Tan (WA), Tiggy Grillo (WHA), Mary Wu (AMIC – Industry Forum Representative).

Apologies: Nil

Objectives of the meeting:

1. Brief Committee members on program deliverables, achievements, issues and expenditure.
2. Receive and discuss urgent program matters.

Welcome, introduction (E Sears)

- The Chair welcomed participants to the meeting and outlined the objectives of the program and the structure of the meeting.
- The Committee were advised of a change in membership with the recent transition of the WA Coordinator role from A Larkins to M MacArthur. Awaiting a replacement representative from the Office of the Australian Chief Veterinary Officer.
- The Chair noted the agenda and requested any changes and items for additional discussion. No changes or additions were requested.

1. 2019-20 in review

1.1 Update on 2019 action items (M Nye)

- Spoke to the action register and noted the status of all action items.
- Action Item #4, #5 and #13 (Review required fields of AVI1 and POU1 data projects; Status update on AusPestCheck; Use/importance of health certification data) remain ongoing. An update on these Items was provided in Agenda Item 2.1. Members expressed concern that Item #4 continues to remain unresolved from prior years. A Breed indicated that investigation, number at risk, response and ND vaccination response fields were not used.
- Action Item #6 (NAHIS workbook rules review to assist with reporting) was listed as lapsed. The OCVO was awaiting the new OIE WAHIS trial to provide feedback to AHA on any requirements. While no feedback was received, AHA is open to discuss future improvements to assist reporting.
- Action Item #14 (Feedback on the usefulness of health certification data from the researcher) lapsed due to delays in the research project. AHA will advise the Committee of any feedback arising as the project progresses.
- Other items complete.

Conclusion

Update on action items accepted by the Committee.

1.2 Program Status Report (E Sears)

- Spoke to the paper provided.
- The expenditure for 2019-20 was within budget. Areas of under expenditure were associated with the decision to delay the 2019 AHIA report and redevelop the report as a

combined 2019/2020 edition scheduled for completion in early 2021. The budget also included the production of the Epi-Digest which ceased in early 2019.

- Qld requested the inclusion of all national notifiable disease in Figure 2, as the graph is currently only displaying NNDI project data and not including diseases in separate data projects such as avian influenza.
- The Committee noted that downloads of AHSQ (Appendix A) by China have increased since last year and that Appendix A only includes data on AHSQ downloads from SciQuest as metrics of downloads from the AHA website were unavailable at the time of writing. The Committee agreed that data from the AHA website is valuable to provide a full understanding of the readership.

Conclusion

The Committee accepted the report as written, noting the future reports should include metrics from both AHSQ download streams and that the second figure be updated to include data from all nationally notifiable diseases.

Actions

- i. AHA to prepare a combined readership analytics report of downloads from the AHA website and SciQuest.
- ii. AHA to include a summary of all national notifiable disease from all data projects by species in future reports.

2. Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) Report (A Breed)

2.1 Update on activities and issues influencing Australia's animal health surveillance needs

- Spoke to the paper provided.
- Discussion on current data requirements and if data beyond the national minimum data standards and the current fields in the NNDI project are still needed. Queensland requested that the worksheets be reviewed to make sure that data collected is fit for purpose and needed.
- Discussion that COVID-19 has highlighted the expectation for national disease data systems that allow for flexibility in working with data and the ability to produce outputs quickly. A current gap in our systems also exists around the capture, management and analysis of genetic sequence data.
- L Macfarlane-Berry updated the Committee on the progress of the AUSPestCheck trial. The Committee discussed that any future systems will need both manual and automatic options for data upload. An evaluation to determine if AUSPestCheck is fit for purpose and meets animal health surveillance needs will be required at the end of the trial. Discussion regarding changing to a new system would be through Animal Health Committee.
- The Committee suggested the incorporation of an alert system notifying and confirming the upload of positive results that would result in a change in Australia's disease status for the relevant condition would be useful in future systems.
- A Breed updated the Committee on developments with the OIE-WAHIS, with key areas of development in the new system being the facility to link genomic data and updates to the geospatial capabilities.
- Members were informed of draft changes to the avian influenza chapter of the OIE Code including the removal of low pathogenicity H5 and H7 from the definition and the proposed requirement for H5 and H7 viruses in poultry to be monitored along with active surveillance for HPAI.

- The Committee discussed the ‘raising of the bar’ regarding the information required to support exports, and the need to improve Australian surveillance in the long term to better support trade and market access. The Committee expressed the need for clearer objectives for Australian surveillance from the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) to better support trade and market access.

Conclusion

The report was accepted, noting the need for clearer objectives for Australian surveillance from DAWE.

Actions

- iii. AHA to facilitate a review of the needs of specific data projects and additional data fields with input from the DAWE.
- iv. Committee to advise A Breed or L Macfarlane-Berry of any suggestions for AUSPestCheck.
- v. A Breed to consult within DAWE and advise the Committee of objectives for surveillance.

3. Reports**3.1 Coordinator reports****NSW (C Harrison)**

- Spoke to the paper provided.
- The Committee discussed if the inclusion of non-diagnostic testing in specific data projects such as BRA2, EBL2 and equine diseases, is providing value. A Breed advised the Committee that feedback is still being collected to inform a clear response. It was suggested that a teleconference to discuss the need for non-diagnostic testing data and bespoke data projects be held in December. E Sears noted the need to confirm industry use of the non-diagnostic equine data to support international reporting by the Thoroughbred Breeding Association.

Conclusion

The report was accepted, with the agreement that a meeting in early December would be held to discuss the need for reporting non-diagnostic testing and bespoke data projects.

Actions

- vi. A Breed to collate and provide an Australian Government response on the need for non-diagnostic testing data.
- vii. E Sears to confirm any current and future uses of non-diagnostic equine testing by industry.

NT (E Stedman)

- Spoke to the paper provided.
- Noted that the delay in publishing each edition of AHSQ makes it challenging for timely reporting back to submitters.
- Discussion on the inclusion of a summary paragraph in the Quarterly Statistics section of AHSQ to provide a concise update on any significant incidences or significant trends in the data for the quarter. The Committee agreed that this could be beneficial to readers and suggested a similar format to the AHC monthly report be considered.

Conclusion

The report was accepted, noting the suggestion of a summary paragraph to be included in AHSQ.

Actions

- viii. AHA to lead the revision of the quarterly statistics section of AHSQ to include a summary section in Volume 26.

Qld (J Barrett)

- Spoke to the paper provided.
- Qld raised concerns that with the current bespoke collection of reports that they will face difficulty in reporting due to a large increase in data following on from the implementation of their enhanced passive surveillance system in the next 6 months.
- A review of fields in data projects with the view to standardising reports is required to enable more automated processes to be built to extract data from jurisdictional based systems. Where a strong case for an additional field is required this needs to be clearly defined. AUSPestCheck may offer a longer-term solution, however a more immediate solution is needed to enable continued data sharing into early 2021.

Conclusion

The report was accepted, noting that work is required to standardise data projects across NAHIS.

Actions

- ix. The Committee to convene in December for a discussion on the standardisation of the data projects in NAHIS.

SA (J Owens)

- Spoke to the paper provided.
- Reiterated the need for further guidance and clarity on NAHIS reporting fields and the value of non-diagnostic testing.

Conclusion

The report was accepted.

Tas (S Martin)

- Spoke to the paper provided.
- Noted that the work to clarify the information being reported in the AHSQ State and Territory Summary charts was appreciated.

Conclusion

The report was accepted.

Vic (K Moore)

- Spoke to the paper provided.
- Discussion on *Salmonella* Enteritidis reporting as part of ongoing active surveillance. The Committee agreed that only the initial property where diseased birds are expected to be located should be reported. Re-sampling, transport, or egg production facilities should not be counted.
- Noted that active surveillance is being performed and is different to what is being reported. A Breed noted that more robust surveillance of *Salmonella* Enteritidis and an accreditation program will be required before export of birds to the EU is possible. A new reporting project may be needed in NAHIS if active surveillance information is required for trade and market access.
- Discussion that the bee data collected by PHA is from the sentinel hives only and does not include records of broader disease investigations which have been reported to NAHIS.

Conclusion

The report was accepted, noting that further discussion is needed at the teleconference in December around priorities and data reporting standardisation.

Actions

- x. NSW and Vic to develop guidelines for inclusion in the NAHIS NNDI reporting instructions on *Salmonella* Enteritidis reporting.

WA (M McArthur)

- Spoke to the paper provided.
- Suggested that the NAHIS Coordinator Workbook be contemporised and streamlined in a format like the revised AHSQ summary template.

Conclusion

The report was accepted.

WHA (T Grillo)

- Spoke to the paper provided.
- Reminded the Committee that feral and wildlife notifiable disease investigations should be reported to the state or territory wildlife health coordinator for entry into eWHIS.
- The Committee acknowledged the work of WHA, and the value of the expert facilitation groups as well as the collation and reporting in eWHIS.

Conclusion

The report was accepted.

NAQS (S Fruean)

- Spoke to the paper provided.
- Noted that further discussion is needed around reporting of NAQS routine and disease investigation data between NAHIS and eWHIS and the data presented in AHSQ.

Conclusion

The report was accepted.

Actions

- xi. AHA and WHA to coordinate with NAQS on wildlife/feral reporting and presentation of data in AHSQ.
- xii. AHA to investigate interactive map issues with Ausvet.

Reporting issues

- The Committee discussed animal movements and reporting responsibilities of jurisdictions. Reports should be entered as the location where the animal is known to have acquired infection. In contentious cases, the jurisdiction where the animal originated is responsible for reporting the disease investigation.

Conclusion

The Committee agreed that for cases where it is unclear where infection was acquired that the jurisdiction where the animal originated is to report the investigation.

3.2 Industry report (M Wu)

- Provided a verbal update on surveillance needs and priorities on behalf of industry forum.
- Industry are currently involved in discussions on the AnimalPLAN and will be reviewing the draft objectives for AnimalPLAN 2021-25 including those related to surveillance.

- Noted concerns travel restrictions from COVID-19 will result in overseas markets relying on published work in replacement of in-person inspections. The increased interest and international readership of AHSQ supports this and highlights the critical nature of NAHIP in ensuring data accuracy and rigour in reporting.
- Recent disease outbreaks (avian influenza and clinical bluetongue) have disrupted trade of some commodities including meat. These disease outbreaks have highlighted some legacy issues with current export certification certificates. Avian influenza in poultry has also had impacts on pork trade. Surveillance data will be needed to underpin the reopening of trade.
- Outlined concerns regarding resourcing and the impacts of COVID-19, particularly around being able to effectively respond in the event of an EAD outbreak.
- ASF and lumpy skin disease are priority diseases of concern for industry at present. Work is currently under way with DAWE to review health certificates and attestations. AHA is also progressing a review of the AUSVETPLAN disease strategy for lumpy skin disease.
- Thanked the NAHIP Advisory Committee for their dedication in underpinning ongoing surveillance and reporting systems.

Conclusion

The report from the Industry Forum Representative was noted by the Committee.

4. Risk Register

4.1 Business Plan (E Sears)

- E Sears outlined that the key updates to the business plan were to the budget to reflect the agreed funding from members as developed through the AHA Annual Operating Plan. Other areas of update were around committee membership and the risk register.
- The Committee agreed to review the business plan out of session, with particular focus on the risk register.

Actions

- xiii. The Committee to review the business plan and provide comments to AHA.

5. Other

5.1 Other business

- Qld requested that AHA and the NAHIP Advisory Committee consider recommencing the production of the Epi-Digest as an internal publication for NAHIP coordinators. The committee discussed this and the possibility of it being in an online and condensed format.

5.2 Next meeting

- The committee discussed moving the annual NAHIP meeting to occur earlier in the year in March or April. No specific concerns were communicated with this proposed change.
- The Committee will meet in December to discuss data project requirements.

Next meeting: First week in December 2020

Meeting close: 1:05pm

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#	ACTION	WHO	BY	STATUS
i.	AHA to prepare a combined readership analytics report of downloads from the AHA website and SciQuest.	AHA	Nov 2020	
ii.	AHA to include a summary of all national notifiable disease from all data projects by species in future reports.	AHA	Mar 2021	
iii.	AHA to facilitate a review of the needs of specific data projects and additional data fields with input from the DAWE.	AHA	Nov 2020	
iv.	Committee to advise A Breed or L Macfarlane-Berry of any suggestions for AUSPestCheck.	All	Nov 2020	
v.	A Breed to consult within DAWE and advise the Committee of objectives for surveillance.	A Breed	Dec 2020	
vi.	A Breed to collate and provide an Australian Government response on the need for non-diagnostic testing data.	A Breed	Dec 2020	
vii.	E Sears to confirm any current and future uses of non-diagnostic equine testing by industry.	E Sears	Nov 2020	
viii.	AHA to lead the revision of the quarterly statistics section of AHSQ to include a summary section in Volume 26.	AHA	Jan 2020	
ix.	The Committee to convene in December for a discussion on the standardisation of the data projects in NAHIS.	All	Dec 2020	
x.	NSW and Vic to develop guidelines for inclusion in the NAHIS NNDI reporting instructions on <i>Salmonella</i> Enteritidis reporting.	C Harrison and K Moore	Nov 2020	
xi.	AHA and WHA to coordinate with NAQS on wildlife/feral reporting and presentation of data in AHSQ.	AHA, WHA, NAQS	Nov 2020	
xii.	AHA to investigate interactive map issues with Ausvet.	AHA	Sept 2020	Complete
xiii.	The Committee to review the business plan and provide comments to AHA.	All	Oct 2020	