

FOR INFORMATION

SWFSPP Annual Meeting 2024

Agenda Item **4.2**

Last updated: 2 September 2024

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QUEENSLAND COORDINATOR REPORT 2023-24**RECOMMENDATION**

1. That the SWFSPP Steering Committee **NOTE:**
 - a. This report on SWFSPP activities undertaken by the Biosecurity Queensland during the 2023-24 financial year.
 - b. Coordination of the SWFSPP activities in Queensland and representation on the steering committee has transitioned from Joanne Mollinger to Selina Ossedryver, as of the beginning of the 24/25 financial year
 - c. Queensland welcomes the opportunity to continue to work with Animal Health Australia, Plant Health Australia and other jurisdictions with the aim of improving NAHIP, particularly regarding data standards, data sharing agreements and uploading and viewing of data (i.e., AUSPestCheck).

BACKGROUND

1. This report discusses SWFSPP activities undertaken by Queensland during the 2023-2024 financial year.

DISCUSSION**2. ADULT FLY TRAPPING**

- Biosecurity Queensland continued to conduct adult SWF trapping at six sites near the Port of Townsville for each trapping event.
- The new site established at Nome Road in May 2023 was registered with AHA in September 2023 ahead of the reporting period.
- Of the 36 adult fly collections scheduled for the 23/24 financial year in Queensland, 36 submissions (100%) were submitted to the laboratory. Trapping occurred in July, September, November, April and June.
- 29 samples were examined morphologically while 4 submissions underwent SWF PCR due to high trap yields.
- Three (3) of the 36 collections yielded no flies.
- The number of flies trapped are now entered into the Biosecurity Sciences Laboratory (BSL) LIMS and reported on Queensland laboratory reports.
- BSL began testing NAQS trapping samples using PCR from September 2023.

3. TARGETED MYIASIS INSPECTIONS

- Biosecurity Queensland had no national commitments for active targeted myiasis inspection.

4. DESCRIBE AND ASSESS PASSIVE SURVEILLANCE

- There were no maggot submissions to the laboratory during the 2023/24 financial year.
- Queensland recognises the value in passive surveillance for SWF and continues to actively engage with our stakeholders, particularly those in the north, to encourage maggot submissions (see communication below).

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- There is an increased cost associated with the use of a commercial buffer for the non-destructive sample extraction method for the SWF PCR. This put the cost of the PCR above the amount previously approved by the committee. Queensland thanks the committee for their agreement in increasing the claimable fee for the PCR to \$149.99 ex GST, to cover this cost to BSL.
- The overall cost to Biosecurity Queensland of contributing to and delivering on the SWFSPP (field and laboratory work and coordination) is considerably higher than the payments available for SWF trapping. However, Biosecurity Queensland is a strong supporter of the national program and believes that the program makes a significant contribution to Australia's capacity to credibly claim freedom from SWF and to detect an incursion of SWF.

6. CONSULTATION/COMMUNICATION

Promotion of SWF awareness – PVP Workshops

Biosecurity Queensland undertook two private veterinary practitioner (PVP) workshops in August 2023 (Townsville) and March 2024 (south-east Queensland). SWF awareness was promoted at both workshops. Communication material and SWF sample kits were also distributed at the Townsville workshop to all attendees.

7. NEXT STEPS/ACTIONS

- SWF information available to external stakeholders via our webpage [Screw-worm fly | Business Queensland](#) is current, however in addition to PVP workshops, we are considering options for further targeted communication activities.
- Where time permits, BSL will investigate the suitability of an in-house non-destructive extraction buffer for the duplex PCR assay to improve cost efficiency and reduce potential supply issues in the event of needing to dramatically increase PCR throughput.
- The scientific paper describing the duplex PCR is undergoing final internal review prior to submission to the open-access Journal of Medical and Veterinary Entomology. Once this is published, Queensland will share this paper to enable AHA to update the manual.

FEEDBACK

Q1 My organisations needs and expectations of the SWFSPP are being met.

Strongly agree Agree Undecided Disagree Strongly disagree

Comments: The existence of the SWFSPP creates and drives incentives for SWF awareness, surveillance and preparedness activities that would otherwise not occur. The program is a very effective framework for bringing together and maintaining effective relationships between national experts

Q2 The outputs of the SWFSPP such as the brochure, poster and annual report in the Animal Health in Australia report are credible and robust.

Strongly agree Agree Undecided Disagree Strongly disagree

Comments: Need to work with the committee on how to get these resources distributed to relevant stakeholders.

Q3 The SWFSPP satisfies the surveillance data and reporting needs of my organisation (e.g. contributes to and/or supports policy development and decision making).

Strongly agree **Agree** Undecided Disagree Strongly disagree

Comments: Queensland welcomes the support of the SWFSPP to implement the duplex OW-SWF and NW-SWF PCR using a non-destructive technique.

Q4 Animal Health Australia is managing the Screw Worm Fly Surveillance and Preparedness Program effectively/satisfactorily.

Strongly agree **Agree** Undecided Disagree Strongly disagree

Comments: Biosecurity Queensland acknowledges the national coordination via AHA as valuable. We would like to see more active involvement in getting SWF data onto AUSPestCheck.