

FOR INFORMATION

NSDIP Advisory Committee Annual Meeting 2020

Agenda Item 2.1

Last updated: **3 September 2020**

Prepared by K Moore

Victorian NSDIP Coordinator report**RECOMMENDATION**

1. That the NSDIP Advisory Committee NOTE:
 - a. **The report on the Victorian NSDIP 2019-2020**
 - b. **The report on the Significant Equine Disease Investigation Scheme (SEDIS)**

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 (Immuno Chromatographic Test or ICT) alone.

DISCUSSION

There were 583 subsidised disease investigations approved by AgVic staff in 2019-20; 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 197 investigations, including 15 significant disease investigations of horses undertaken through the Significant Equine Disease Investigation Scheme. Figure 2 shows the location of the investigations. The most commonly reported syndromes are shown in Table 2.

Of the 197 investigations 67 (34%) had national notifiable diseases excluded.

Table 1 Investigations by species

SPECIES	NUMBER OF INVESTIGATIONS	NSDIP INVESTIGATIONS
CATTLE	251	75
SHEEP/GOAT	258	78
POULTRY	24	12
HORSES	31	22
PIGS	15	4
OTHER	4	
GRAND TOTAL	583	197

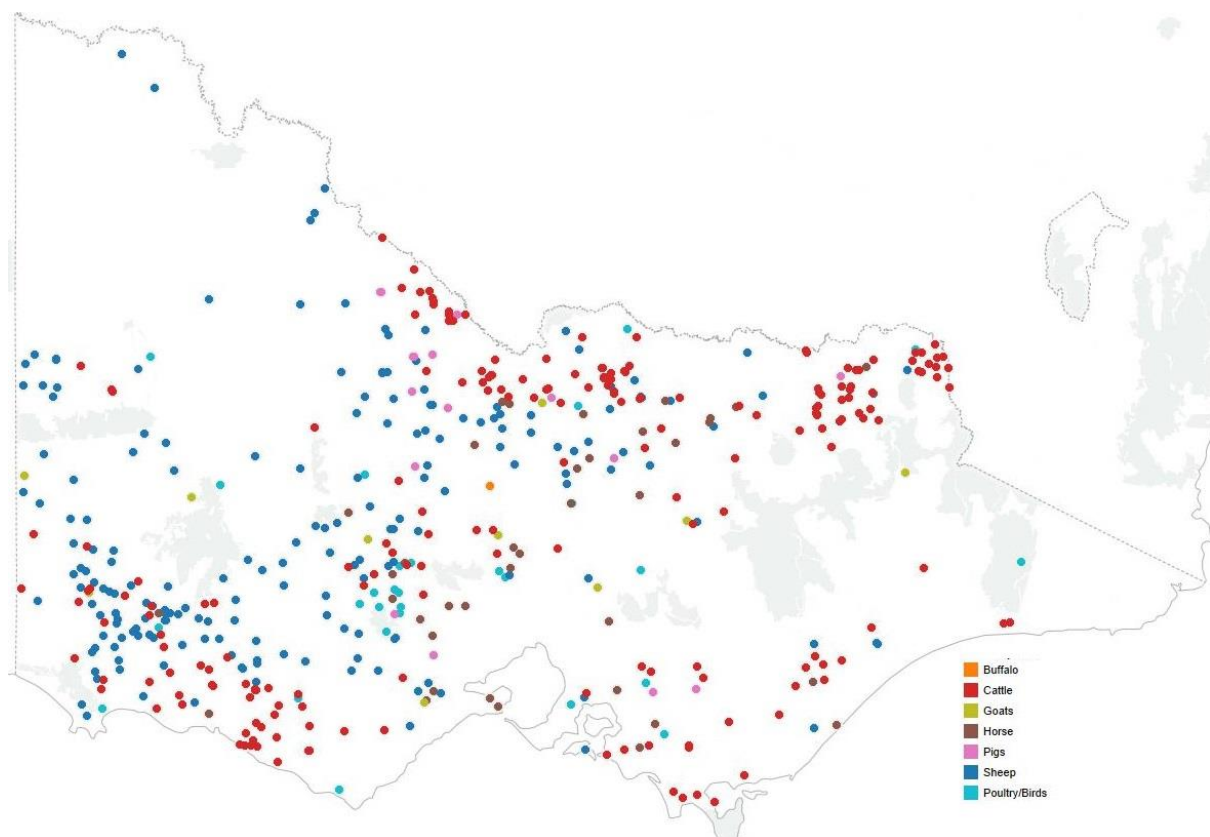


Figure 1 Geographic location of Victorian SDIP investigations 2019-20

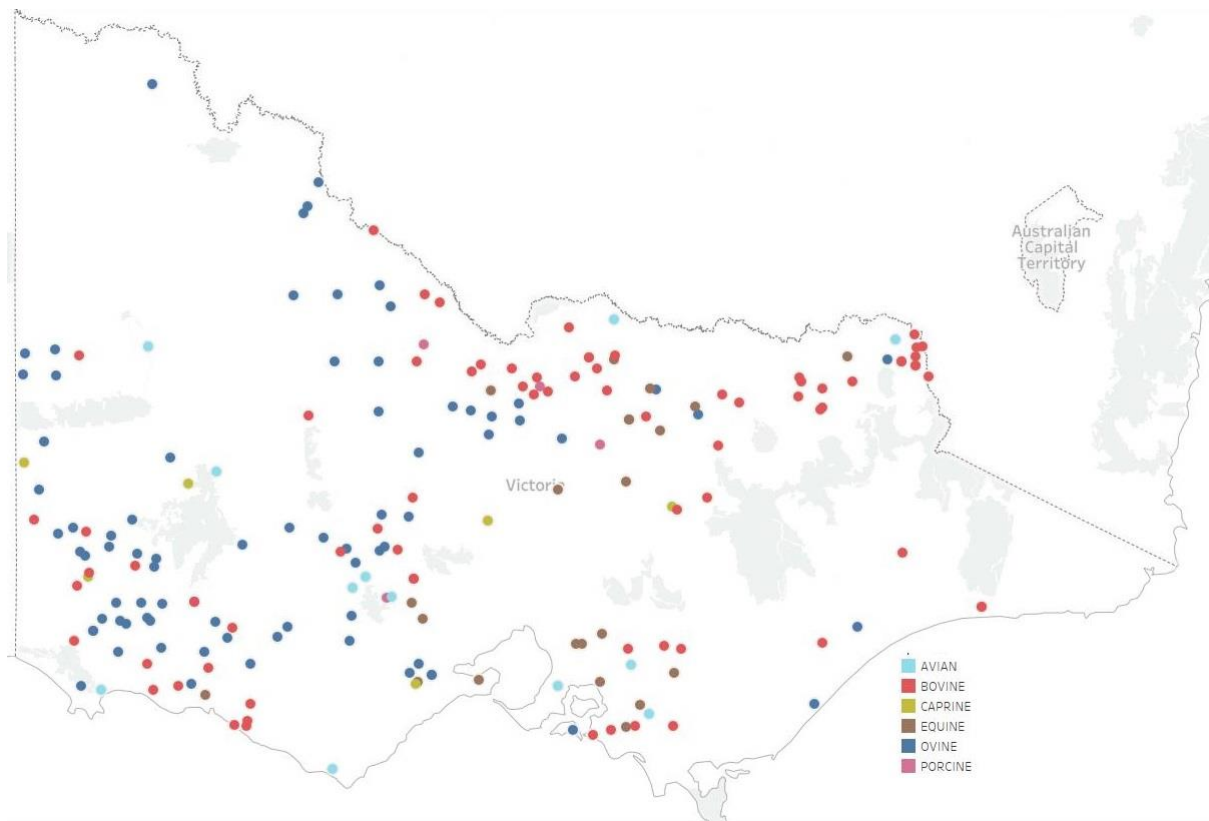


Figure 2 Geographic location of NSDIP investigations 2019-20

Table 2 Syndromes most commonly identified in Victorian NSDIP submissions (2019-20)

SYNDROME	NUMBER OF INVESTIGATIONS
Abortion/stillbirth	36
Increased mortality/sudden death	31
Nervous signs	24
Diarrhoea	22
Found dead	17
Weakness/depression/anorexia/malaise	13
Respiratory signs	12
No suitable syndrome	10
Lameness	9
Ill thrift/weight loss	8
Jaundice	4
Skin lesions	4
Acute febrile disease	2
Alimentary signs other than diarrhoea	1
Circulatory/anaemia/oedema	1
Genital lesions	1
Oral lesions or salivation	1
Production drop	1

SIGNIFICANT EQUINE DISEASE INVESTIGATION SCHEME (SEDIS)

In Victoria, investigations of disease events in horses have been under-represented in the significant disease investigation (SDI) program in comparison to other livestock species.

The overall objective of the SEDIS project was to increase general surveillance by improving the quality and number of investigations from horses, through the subsidisation of laboratory testing costs. The project started 1 July 2018 and was expected to continue until 30 June 2020 but due to greater than anticipated participation the funds allocated to the project were completely expended with the last horses recruited in late October 2019.

Sixty-eight investigations, involving 98 horses, were undertaken as part of the project. Fifteen investigations were subsidised by the NSDIP in 2019-20. The project results are reported separately.

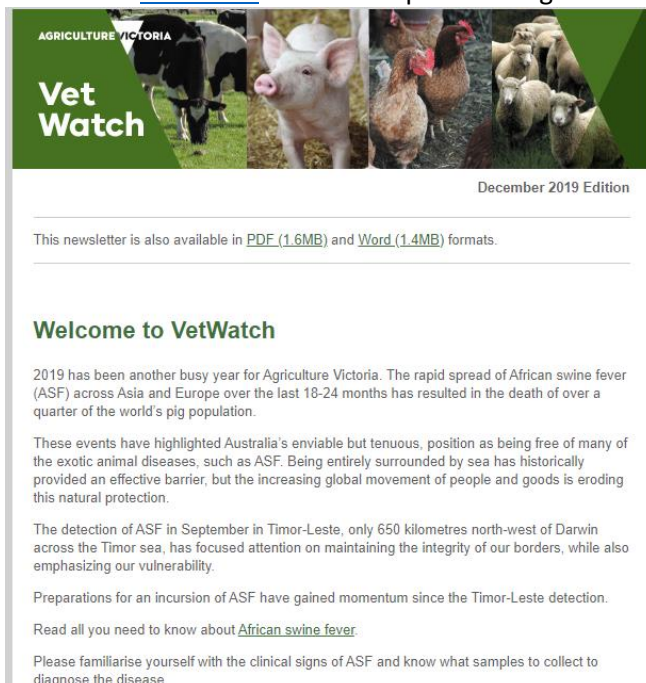
TRAINING

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.

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.



Pig SDI flip book produced

This year AgVic produced another booklet for veterinarians; the *Significant Disease Investigation Guide Pigs*. This complements the SDI guides produced last year for Cattle/sheep and horses. Despite the logistical difficulties associated with the Covid pandemic these were distributed, along with copies of the ASF guide to veterinary practices throughout Victoria in June.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

2. *No issues*

CONSULTATION/COMMUNICATION

3. *NA*

NEXT STEPS/ACTIONS

4. *NA*

Attachment A: *NSDIP SEDIS report June 2020*

FEEDBACK

5. *[Please respond to the questions below in assessing the performance of the NAHIP over the 2018–19 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
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
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
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. However, there is a need for improvement in the number of exclusion test requests by veterinarians.				

Q4 Animal Health Australia is managing the National Significant Disease Investigation Program effectively/satisfactorily.				
Strongly agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly disagree
The program is well managed by the team at AHA.				