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Emily Sears
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Dear Emily,

Following is the report from the Emergency Animal Disease and Zoonotic Disease webinar program that was relaunched by the NSW Department of Primary Industries, in collaboration with Local Land Services and Australian Veterinary Association, available across NSW in May and June 2020.

Previously, NSW DPI conducted multiple face-to-face EAD seminars in various regions around the state however due to logistics and resourcing limitations, these face-to-face seminars are not the best method of communication with all practitioners, and particularly that our engagement with and provision of training opportunities for our remote private veterinary practitioners has been deficient.

As a result, this webinar program was originally run in 2019, with the intent to provide remote private veterinary practitioners with EAD Awareness training. It was decided to relaunch the program in 2020, adding an 11th presentation on African Swine Fever and to promote it to all regions of NSW.

The webinar program was designed to increase the knowledge, skill and confidence of private veterinarians in:

- identifying significant disease events,
- being aware of notifiable diseases and emergency animal diseases,
- notifying, and collaborating with, NSW government veterinary authorities of potential notifiable and emergency animal diseases,
- using appropriate personal protective equipment,
- conducting appropriate necropsies and collecting and submitting appropriate samples to the NSW State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory,
- obtaining thorough case histories collecting appropriate epidemiological information.

The webinar program was a series of 11 presentations, approximately 30 minutes each in length, and two live Q&A sessions where participants were able to ask questions of the presenters.

Attendance

Webinar:

Overall, 89 people participated in the webinar series with 54 veterinarians in private practice, 2 veterinary students, 1 para-veterinary staff, 22 government veterinarians and 10 other.

In order to be eligible for structured CPD points for the program, a log-in facility was applied to all presentations and live sessions, so participation by individuals was monitored over a 4-week period. Of those that participated, 35 veterinarians completed the program. Presentations will remain available until the end of March 2021 for both new registrations and for those who either registered or participated but did not complete the full program in the designated timeframe. The presentations will also be converted to MP4 format so they can be used for ongoing educational purposes.

Financials

The webinar series management was outsourced to a professional online conferencing company which has previously been utilised by both NSW DPI and the AVA.

All funding was provided by the NSDIP program. The cost to relaunch the webinar program was \$11,100 AUD (excluding GST). Funding was used to cover the recording of the additional presentation, facilitation of the two live Q&A sessions, presentation hosting for another 12 months and conversion of the presentations into MP4 format.

NSW Department of Primary Industries staff hours, for program facilitation, presentations and live Q&A sessions, were provided as in-kind support for this project.

Feedback

Feedback (see feedback survey attached) on the seminars provided to NSW DPI has been favourable.

Participants who completed the program were surveyed:

- 96% of respondents felt better prepared to investigate a possible emergency animal disease following participation in the webinar,
- 96% of respondents felt the webinar was a good use of their time and
- 88% of respondents would recommend the webinar series to others.

Please do not hesitate to contact NSW DPI for any further information or queries.

Jane Brien

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NSW Department of Primary Industries Animal Biosecurity