

FOR INFORMATION and DISCUSSION

NAHIP Advisory Committee Annual Meeting 2020

Agenda Item 3.1

Last updated: 9 September 2020

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COORDINATOR REPORT - QUEENSLAND 2019-20

RECOMMENDATION

That the NAHIS Advisory Committee

1. NOTE the report about Queensland's contributions towards the NAHIP and NAHIS during 2019-20
2. DISCUSS the burden of reporting national data via so varied a combination of disease-specific worksheets, rather than a single set of nationally standard data fields for all diseases

BACKGROUND

1. This report describes Biosecurity Queensland's contributions during the financial year 2019-20 against Biosecurity Queensland's national commitments to the NAHIP.
2. This report also raises issues for discussion and agreement in relation to NAHIS reporting.

DISCUSSION*Queensland's contribution to NAHIS activities in 2019-20*

3. Queensland contributed Queensland report summaries and data (NAHIS, NTSESP, SWFSPP, NAMP) for inclusion in the four editions of Animal Health Surveillance Quarterly (AHSQ) published for 2019-20, being Issues 3 and 4 of Volume 24 (2019) and Issues 1 and 2 of Volume 25 (2020).
4. The surveillance projects in Queensland that generated data submitted to NAHIS are:
 - a. Queensland's Passive (animal disease) Surveillance Program – including disease investigations supported (part funded) by the NSDIP and TSEFAP-NTSESP programs.
 - b. Adult fly trapping near the Port of Townsville supported the SWFSPP.
 - c. NAMP
5. In 2019-20 Queensland contributed **2 published feature stories** for AHSQ
 - a. [Detection of atypical scrapie demonstrates the effectiveness of national program for classical scrapie](#), Volume 24, Issue 3, pp 4-5, Sept 2019 2018
 - b. *White spot disease in Queensland: a status update*, (publication in Vol 25 Issue 2 June 2020 pending)

6. In 2018-19 Queensland submitted **3 case stories for the State and Territory Report** within AHSQ.
 - a. *Sudden death in turkey pullets due to histomoniasis (blackhead)*, Volume 23, Issue 4, pp 18-20, Dec 2019
 - b. *Exclusion of Australian bat lyssavirus and rabies in an aggressive dog with ovarian tumours*, Volume 25, Issue 1, pp 29-30, March 2020
 - c. *African swine fever and other exotic diseases excluded in pigs with Klebsiella pneumoniae septicaemia* (publication in Vol 25 Issue 2 June 2020 pending)
7. Queensland provides subsidies for laboratory investigations for approximately 2,000-2,500 private veterinary practitioners (PVPs) and 400-500 government officer submissions to the Biosecurity Science Laboratory. The majority (>60%) are cattle, consistent with the significance of the cattle industry to the Queensland economy.
8. A thorough laboratory investigation of an incident involving cattle (necropsy sample set) typically costs ~\$1,300 to \$1,700 per beast. The most significant component of the cost is histopathology.
9. The laboratory component of Queensland's passive surveillance budget is ~\$4 to 5 million, of which the NSDIP contributes <\$20K (<0.5 %) and the NTSESP contributes ~ \$200K (4 %).
10. Industry funds are not available for surveillance programs specific to Queensland.
11. Queensland is implementing a pilot program to enhance passive animal diseases surveillance, in particular to get more 'public value' from 'clinically consistent' cases/incidents where an NND is 'plausible but unlikely'. It is intended that the enhanced passive surveillance pilot will increase the number of Queensland NND reports to NAHIS/NSDIP by 10 fold within 1 years.

The burden of reporting national data via so varied a combination of disease-specific worksheets

12. The NAHIS Excel reporting template consists of a number of different worksheets – some specific to a particular disease (e.g. ATX2) or animal type (POU1 v AVI1) as well as the generic 'NND' worksheet for other national notifiable animal diseases investigations.
13. The unique combinations of data required for disease/animal specific worksheet include fields for data that are not part of the nationally agreed minimum surveillance data set and which are not necessarily recorded in fields in jurisdictional data bases. Consequently, provision of so many 'bespoke' data sets is so tedious and time consuming that Queensland suspects there burden of providing this data is far in excess of the extent of use/public value generated from it once submitted.
14. In response to calls from that ACVO for more negative data on trade significant NNDs to support Australia's claims of freedom – Queensland intends to increase both the the volume and range of data being submitted to NAHIS by orders of magnitude (more than 10 times) within 1 year.
15. **It will not be feasible or sustainable for Qld to continue to provide such a burdensome combination of data** in the absence of either
 - a. Evidence from the Commonwealth that the bespoke, non-standard data is actually used and necessary for supporting market access, and/or
 - b. Revision of the reporting template/requirements so that reporting from jurisdictional databases can be fully automated from the jurisdictional data base. For example – all disease being reported via the NDDI worksheet only.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

16. National surveillance programs contribute an insignificant proportion (<5%) of the actual cost of animal disease surveillance in Queensland.

CONSULTATION/COMMUNICATION

17. Not applicable.

NEXT STEPS/ACTIONS

18. Discussion of future NAHIS reporting requirements and processes with a view to more feasible and sustainable reporting of higher volumes of data.

FEEDBACK

19. Queensland provides the following responses to the questions below to assess the performance of the NAHIP over the 2019-20 year and to offer feedback and suggested changes for continual improvement

Q1 My organisation's needs and expectations of the NAHIS are being met.				
Strongly agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Broadly – yes, and the efforts of AHA to meet the needs of NAHIP, notably the recent review of the stat and territory data summary reporting for AHSQ has been excellent. But in some specific areas – no. - The AVCO is our 'client' and continues to express dissatisfaction with the volume and nature of data provided to support market access, and an a will formed expectation as president of the OIE that current data will rapidly become insufficient to meet the changing expectations and context of our international markets. While ever the needs of the ACVO are not being well met – the needs of Qld are not being met. - The national agreement to submit a complex combination of bespoke disease- and host specific data is no longer sustainable. - The commonwealth has not provided evidence of how burdensome-to-supply data is (or isn't) used.				

Q2 The outputs of NAHIS, such as the Animal Health in Australia report, Animal Health Surveillance Quarterly, interactive map and the Epi-Digest, are credible and robust.				
Strongly agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly disagree
AHiA is primarily used by the DoA to maintain/expand/regain market access. Queensland is satisfied with AHiA if DoA considers it fit for purpose. Animal Health Surveillance Quarterly – if the DoA is not also using AHSQ to maintain/expand/regain market access, Queensland is unsure why we bother? Queensland notes that AHC decided to discontinue production of Epi-digest and wonders why.				

Q3 The format and protocols in place for uploading and transferring national surveillance data are fit for purpose.				
Strongly agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Queensland continues to support NAHIS and the excel upload process – but no longer considers the complex and bespoke reporting field requirements per disease and host to be feasible or sustainable. Much of what is reported for some disease (e.g AI, ND) was determined more than a decade ago and requires urgent review to verify its relevance and suitability to meet ‘actual needs’ rather <i>than accepted without critically thought ‘wants’</i> .				

Q4 NAHIS satisfies the surveillance data and reporting needs of my organisation (e.g. contributes to and/or supports policy development, decision-making and trade).				
Strongly agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly disagree
NAHIS is primarily used by the DoA to maintain/expand/regain market access. Queensland is satisfied with NAHIS if DoA considers it fit for purpose. Collating and reporting Queensland data for NAHIS has informed policy development and decision-making, and the data published about other jurisdictions is helpful for benchmarking our performance.				