

NAHIP ADVISORY COMMITTEE INTERIM MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY 26 OCTOBER 2022 | Videoconference

Start: 11:00 | Close: 13:00 (AEDT)

In attendance:

- **AHA** – Bronwyn Hendry (chair), Emily Sears, Mikhaila Nye (record)
- **DAFF** – Adam Robinson (Animal Biosecurity, advisor), Laura Macfarlane-Berry (NAHIP rep.), Andrew Breed (observer)
- **NSW** – Geoff Campbell (NAHIP rep.)
- **NT** – Susanne Fitzpatrick (Supporting NAHIP rep.), Cindy Dudgeon (NAHIP rep.)
- **Qld** – Selina Ossedryver (proxy), Jo Mollinger (observer)
- **SA** – Jane Owens (NAHIP Rep.)
- **Tas** – Emma Watkins (NAHIP rep.)
- **Vic** – Julia Sarandopoulos (NAHIP rep.)
- **WA** – Marion Seymour (NAHIP rep.)
- **WHA** – Keren Cox-Witton (NAHIP rep.)

Apologies:

- Samantha Allan (AHA), Guy Weerasinghe (Aus. Gov. – NAQS advisor and coordination), Greg Williamson (Qld – Data advisor and coordination), Jess van de Weyer (Australian Pork Ltd. – Industry Forum rep.)

Objective of meeting: Receive and discuss urgent/critical NAHIP matters.

1. 2021-22 in review
1.1 Update on 2021 action items – M Nye (AHA)

- M Nye spoke to the paper.
- Actions 2 and 7, around including feral investigations in reporting, are in progress and discussions are ongoing with AHA, WHA and NAQS.
- Action 4, around including information on key trading partners in the Australian Government's update will be included in the annual meeting next year.
- Action 5, relating to review of systems by the MAE scholar, has been closed. DAFF is consulting with Jurisdictions and AHA through their Surveillance in Action activities.
- Action 8, providing a response regarding non-tariff barrier to trade, has been closed as individuals have moved on from their roles.
- Action 11 regarding the EAD hotline management is discussed under Item 3.1.
- All other actions are complete.

Conclusion/s

Update on 2021 action items accepted as written with no comments from the committee.

Action/s

1. WHA and AHA to develop figures showing feral animal investigations for inclusion in the status report going forward (continued from 2021).
2. NAQS, WHA and AHA to discuss reporting lines for feral animal surveillance data (continued from 2021).

1.2 JEV clinical case reporting – E Sears and B Hendry (AHA)

- Current challenges regarding case definitions and laboratory testing and sampling criteria were discussed.
- It was noted that positive or inconclusive laboratory results, from animals that do not meet the case definition but are deemed to have been infected or exposed, are important for surveillance but are out of the current scope of NAHIP NNDI reporting, which focuses on clinical cases.
- The committee noted that laboratory diagnosis of JEV is complex and often doesn't result in a definitive positive or negative result, particularly for horses.
- Discussion on PCR testing, and the importance of doing PCR tests on appropriate samples.
- The committee discussed that the national JEV case definitions will continue to be reviewed by the national JEV surveillance working group.
- It was noted that jurisdictions have reported JEV testing results as part of the national JEV epi report which is being coordinated by DAFF. It was queried if there is value in collating broader JEV testing results within NAHIS or if the current reporting is adequate. It was noted that collation of all JEV testing is challenging. The affected jurisdictions are currently working on a paper to AHC around case definitions going forward.
- Discussion on whether inconclusive results for clinical cases should be reported as negative in NAHIS. Noted that this is not done for other diseases – inconclusive cases are not currently reported in NAHIS. Further discussion is required regarding reporting of inconclusive cases.
- The committee agreed that the addition of a separate data project for all JEV testing would be double handling of data entry and be resource intensive.
- Discussion on inconclusive results across the broader NAHIS data projects and the possibility of consulting with ACDP and other countries to inform how to best handle these within our system.
- It was noted that once the national case definition has been reviewed, this will inform the listing of JEV on the national list. There was discussion on the differences between evidence of exposure and active infection.

Conclusion/s

The committee discussed the current reporting of JEV in NAHIS and agreed that further consultation with jurisdictions, DAFF (JEV surveillance working group chair) and ACDP to clarify case definitions is needed.

Action/s

3. AHA to consult with jurisdictions to identify current JEV reporting issues to ensure that JEV reporting into NAHIP is consistent with national case definitions.
4. AHA to develop recommendations on reporting of inconclusive JEV results into NAHIP as part of broader consideration of the national process of reporting inconclusive results.

2. Urgent/critical issues

2.1 Any other time sensitive issues – Committee

- K Cox-Witton reminded the committee that all notifiable testing in wildlife, including feral species and wildlife in captivity e.g. rehabilitation, zoos, and captive breeding populations should be reported through eWHIS. Aviary birds kept as pets, loft pigeons and back yard poultry are reported through NAHIS.
- The committee agreed that investigations of community dogs should be reported through NAHIS. Wild/feral dogs and dingoes are reported to eWHIS.
- The committee noted that the NAHIP Business Plan and the data entry workbook include information on what should be reported to eWHIS vs NAHIS.

Conclusion/s

The committee noted the reminder of reporting lines of NAHIS and eWHIS.

Action/s

NIL

3 Other
3.1 EAD Hotline and NAHIP role – B Hendry

- The EAD Hotline review response paper which recommends that the hotline be managed under NAHIP is currently with AHC for consideration.
- Noted a suggestion in response to the AHC paper has been received for the Sub-committee for Emergency Animal Disease (SCEAD) to manage the EAD hotline.
- Some jurisdictions indicated that their current systems and resources do not allow them to report on the proposed template. It was clarified that reporting KPIs are still under consideration by AHC. It was acknowledged that if the reporting fields were implemented as proposed, this would have financial and resourcing implications on jurisdictions.
- The intent is to have a national forum to monitor the Hotline and provide greater connectivity to direct enquiries within jurisdictions on the national management of the hotline. Also, to allow a forum to identify and resolve issues.
- The role of committee members would be to provide a short report on the functioning of Hotline within the jurisdiction at annual NAHIP meetings, and act as a link for enquiries.
- WA and DAFF noted their preference for the hotline to be managed under NAHIP. The other jurisdictions did not express a preference between NAHIP and SCEAD.
- Members noted that the EAD Hotline SOP has not been reviewed since 2007. It was flagged that there will be a potential disjunct if the management of the hotline sits within the NAHIP as it is not NAHIP's role to update NASOPs.

Conclusion/s

The Committee noted the update on the EAD Hotline management. Further discussions will occur following the AHC and SCEAD discussions.

Action/s

5. AHA to update the committee on the outcome of the EAD Hotline AHC paper.
6. AHA to seek clarity from AHC on where the responsibility for updating the EAD Hotline NASOP sits and to update the committee.

3.2 AHIA data visualisation – M Nye

- AHA has received feedback that readers would like the charts shown in AHIA to also be available as interactive visualisations across years.
- M Nye presented an initial concept for interactive visualisations that has been developed as part of a pilot supplement to the 2022 AHIA report. Members noted that the figures displayed were developed from data that is already in the public domain. AHA is seeking feedback from jurisdictions on whether the data should be filterable by jurisdiction.
- The committee discussed potential issues around interpretation of data in the absence of understanding jurisdictional context e.g. stock densities.
- The committee agreed that the supplement is a useful tool and that the next step would be to circulate the supplement to CVOs for comment and approval.

Conclusion/s

The Committee agreed for the AHIA visualisation to be circulated to CVOs for comment and approval as a supplement for AHIA 2022.

Action/s

7. Send the draft AHIA interactive supplement link to committee members and CVOs for feedback.

3.3 Committee members and representation

- B Hendry noted that NAHIP committee decides on NAHIP committee membership.
- Historically the NAHIP committee has had two industry representatives, one intensive and one extensive. Currently, the committee only has an intensive industry representative following recent personnel movements.
- AHA proposed the addition of an extensive industry representative, potentially from the sheep sector, and asked for in principle approval from the NAHIP committee.
- There was a query as to whether a sheep industry representative is relevant to the program given that the Australian Government is phasing out live sheep exports. The committee noted the export of sheep meat and wool in addition to the current export of live sheep.
- The committee provided in principle support.
- AHA proposed the addition of two Australian Government representatives. Members provided in principle support for a representative from the OCVO and from the Export Standards branch of DAFF to be added to the NAHIP committee.
- The committee discussed the need to understand how the surveillance information collected within NAHIP is used, and what information is needed or not needed, and that the addition of representatives from the OCVO and Export Standards should be able to provide useful information. It was suggested that this could include a standing report to the committee each year covering trade requirements.
- The committee discussed that it would be useful to streamline the reporting of data and identify any data projects or fields that are no longer needed for maintaining market access.
- L Macfarlane-Berry provided an update regarding the previous NAHIP request for clarification around DAFF requirements for surveillance. This process has been challenging due to gaps in documentation including justification for the different reporting requirements. DAFF has been conducting internal consultations to understand how data are currently being used and what is required. For example, ad hoc enquiries are received requesting more current data (eg. the last six months), and specific data fields (eg. test type). DAFF aims to provide a high level summary at the next meeting and have requested stakeholders provide any documentation they may have to describe the existing processes to support this effort. It appears that a proportion of the data currently collected are not being used by DAFF.
- L Macfarlane-Berry asked for clarification about who is currently responsible or able to analyse NAHIS data.. The NAHIP's data access request process is outlined in the Business Plan and requires data access requests to be sent to AHA, who then consult with relevant jurisdictions/the NAHIP committee for approval.
- The committee noted that the rate limiting step is often the systems and resources to collect, collate, approve and report at the Jurisdictional level and this is not easy to increase.
- The committee discussed data quality in relation to diagnostic testing standards and case definitions. NSW is undertaking a project in this space and offered to share their internal standard draft Laboratory Test Standard document.

Conclusion/s

The Committee supported the expansion of its membership. AHA will engage representatives from an extensive industry, DAFF OCVO and Exports Standards branch.

Action/s

8. DAFF to provide the committee with the findings of DAFF's review of whether NAHIP data is sufficiently meeting DAFF's needs in relation to the program's goal of "supporting trade in animal commodities and meeting Australia's international reporting obligations".
9. AHA to approach the sheep industry and DAFF OCVO and exports branch for NAHIP representatives.
10. NSW to share their draft Laboratory Test Standard document (provisional name for this document).
11. AHA to update the committee on the process for data access requests.

Date and time of next meeting: late May 2023

Meeting close: 12:30 pm

NAHIP ADVISORY COMMITTEE INTERIM MEETING ACTION REGISTER

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#	ACTION	WHO	BY
1	Develop figures showing feral animal investigations for inclusion in the status report going forward (continued from 2021).	WHA and AHA	May 2023
2	Discuss reporting lines for feral animal surveillance data (continued from 2021).	NAQS, WHA and AHA	May 2023
3	Consult with jurisdictions to identify current JEV reporting issues to ensure that JEV reporting into NAHIP is consistent with national case definitions.	AHA	February 2023
4	Develop recommendations on reporting of inconclusive JEV results into NAHIP as part of broader consideration of the national process of reporting inconclusive results.	AHA	February 2023
5	Update the committee OOS on the outcome of the EAD Hotline AHC paper.	AHA	December 2022
6	Seek clarity from AHC on where the responsibility for updating the EAD Hotline NASOP sits and to update the committee OOS.	AHA	February 2023
7	Send the draft AHIA interactive supplement link to committee members and CVOs for feedback.	AHA	November 2022
8	Provide the committee with the findings of DAFF's review of whether NAHIP data is sufficiently meeting DAFF's needs in relation to the program's goal of "supporting trade in animal commodities and meeting Australia's international reporting obligations".	DAFF	May 2023
9	Approach the sheep industry and DAFF OCVO and Exports Standards branch for NAHIP representatives.	AHA	December 2022
10	Share their draft Laboratory Test Standard document (provisional name for this document).	NSW	May 2023
11	Update the committee on the process for data access requests.	AHA	November 2022