

SCREW-WORM FLY SURVEILLANCE AND PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM

STEERING COMMITTEE ANNUAL MEETING

RECORD OF MEETING

WEDNESDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER 2023 | Broome, WA

In attendance:

Participant	Organisation
Mikhaila Nye	AHA – Chair
Madeleine Leyden	AHA – Minutes
Bronwyn Hendry	AHA
Elias Christofi	AHA – AusPestCheck
Geoff Brown	Qld – Reference Entomologist
Charlotte Burgoyne	Aus. Gov NAQS - <i>Proxy</i>
Kathleen Moylan	NT – <i>Proxy</i>
Joanne Mollinger	Qld
Will Janson	WA
Elizabeth Braddon	NSW Southern Jurisdictions representative – <i>Proxy</i>

Apologies:

Participant	Organisation
Mike Darby	CA – Industry representative
Guy Weerasinghe	Aus. Gov NAQS
Liz Bolin	NSW Southern Jurisdictions representative
Stacey Carnogoy	NT

1. Arrivals and Introductions (M Nye)

- The Chair welcomed participants to the SWFSPP SC meeting.

2. Program status and year in review

2.1 Progress on 2022 meeting action items – B Hendry (AHA)

- B Hendry spoke to the committee action items from 2022. Noted that the updated Action Items will be circulated following the meeting.
- Action Items #3, #4, #6, #8, #9, #13, #15, #16, #17, #19, #20, #21, #22, #23, #24, #25, and #26 are completed.
- Action Items #1, #2, #7, #10, #11, #12, #14, #27, #28, #29 are on hold or are ongoing and will be carried forward.
- Action Items #5 and #18 have been closed.
- Action Items #1 - #5 from the 2022 Entomology Workshop are completed.

Conclusion

Update on 2022 action items accepted as written. AHA to circulate the action items to the Committee out of session.

Action/s

1. AHA Circulate Action items to the committee OOS.
2. G Weerasinghe to check the 'grey' literature on NWSWF modelling from the US through professional contacts and to share with AHA, if available (carried over).
3. G Weerasinghe to liaise with US contacts with the aim of acquiring additional larvae and adult NWSWF samples (carried over).
4. G Weerasinghe to provide a project update to the Committee out of session on the PNG insectocutor trial.
5. AHA to circulate LSD incursion AusVet paper to the committee.
6. AHA to create a new SWF video and work with Industry on messaging to help to encourage reporting (carried over).
7. AHA to explore the development of other communications materials such as a glove-box guide (carried over).
8. AHA to investigate opportunities to conduct social research on awareness amongst veterinarians of the SWF program (carried over).

2.2 Program Report – M Nye (AHA)

- M Nye spoke to the paper including the financial and program activities update.
- Jurisdictions to advise of any discrepancies in Appendix A out of session as required.
- Noted that additional Qld data has been uploaded since the report was developed, and a new Qld site is to be added to the Business Plan (discussed under Agenda Item 4.2.)

Conclusion/s

- The committee accepted the report.

Action/s

NIL

3. Australian Government report

3.1 Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy (NAQS) report (C Burgoyne)

- Spoke to the paper and presentation provided.
- Noted challenges in maintaining visibility of maggot kits, as NAQS don't receive details when NAQS kits are being used to submit samples. Discussion on adding a table in the quarterly reports to include details on submission of maggots to the jurisdictional laboratories so NAQS can identify when their collection kits have been used, and what the outcome was.
- In the NT, buffalo, feral pigs and cattle are shot and inspected postmortem for wounds and maggots.
- Staffing issue is the main challenge with sample collection and testing
- Discussion on strengthening myiasis inspection activities through leveraging off other activities, such as bleeding for the National Arbovirus Monitoring Program (NAMP), or tick inspections. This could be done through the addition of a check box on inspection reports to indicate that animals have been inspected for ticks, maggots, evidence of lumpy skin disease etc.
- Noted that for the myiasis inspections to be sensitive, animals must be examined thoroughly such as when looking for ticks (i.e., ears, horn bases, scrotum, under tails).

Conclusion/s

- The committee accepted the report.

Action/s

- AHA to work with NAQS to include a table in the quarterly reports for jurisdictions to fill out details of maggot submissions.
- AHA to raise with NAMP Steering Committee a proposal to include SWF myasis inspections concurrently with NAMP sampling activities in NAMP herds.

3.2 International focus (All)

- Chair noted that a report on the international situation was not available from NAQS.
- G Brown highlight that the Panama – Costa Rica NWSWF containment line has been breached, most likely due to in the movement of dogs. Surveillance north of the containment line is detecting around 15 NWSWF per week. The border has since been closed to all cattle and dogs.

Conclusion/s

- The committee noted the situation in Central America.

Action/s

NIL

4. Coordinator reports

4.1 Northern Territory Report – (K Moylan)

- K Moylan spoke about the report.
- Noted that the NT has 6 trap sites trapping 6 times a year. Current business plan states the NT has 4 trap sites trapping 8 times a year. The Committee supported increasing the NT trapping activities in the Business Plan to match the activities being undertaken (6 traps with 6 events).
- The Committee noted that targeted myiasis inspections undertaken by the NT tend to be undertaken in - low-risk herds with no wounds found during 2022-23.
- The Committee noted that AMRRIC also does surveillance of SWF in dogs in remote communities. Also, NAQS do workshops in each of the northern states which include SWF awareness.

Conclusion/s

- The Committee accepted the report. NT trapping frequencies will be updated in the Business Plan to six events, with six traps, as agreed by the Committee.

Action/s

- AHA to update the Business Plan to include 6 traps 6 times per year for the NT.

4.2 Queensland Report – J Mollinger

- Spoke about the report.
- Noted traps sites have changed slightly, QLD will share updated trap site details with AHA to update the Business Plan. A new trap site has been established at Nome Road.

Conclusion/s

- The Committee accepted the report.

Action/s

12. QLD to provide AHA with updated traps to be include into the SWF Business Plan
13. AHA to add the new Qld trapping site into NAHIS

4.3 WA Report – W Janson

- Spoke about the report.
- Discussion on trapping duration. G Brown confirmed that trapping for 10 days is the standard due to PCR requirements. G Brown to provide the reference paper about the reasons for 10 day trapping out of session, and AHA to provide a link to this reference document in the adult fly trapping work instruction.
- Noted challenges with the sensitivity of myasis inspections as most animals going through the depot for export are healthy.
- AHA raised that the frequency of trapping events in WA does not match the planned activities in the Business Plan. AHA and WA to discuss out of session following confirmation internally in WA on the activities being conducted.

Conclusion/s

- The Committee accepted the report.

Action/s

14. G Brown to provide the reference paper about the reasons for 10-day trapping to AHA who will circulate it to the committee OOS.
15. WA to confirm its current trapping activities and notify AHA

4.4 Proposed changes to activities for 2023–24

- Qld trapping sites to be updated in Business Plan, and additional Qld trapping site to be added to NAHIS.
- NT Budget for sampling number to increase sample sites from 4 to 6.
- WA to confirm trapping activities, and the Business Plan to be updated as required.

Conclusion/s

- The committee supported the proposed changes.

Action/s

NIL

4.5 Industry priorities and recommendations (M Nye)

- M Nye noted that the industry representative as is an apology and provided a verbal update on behalf of Cattle Australia.
- Biosecurity continues to be a leading priority for the grass-fed cattle sector, as it does also for other livestock industries.

- Good biosecurity practices are intrinsic to Australia's access to important export markets which underpin our prosperity.
- CA supports increased investment in Biosecurity and a bolstering of Australia's biosecurity measures.
- CA believes our biosecurity system will be challenged by more complex biosecurity threats, carried by airborne vectors such as LSD, over the coming decade.
- CA has championed improved agility and real-time consultation for biosecurity systems and has recently called for a review of the NAMP with a view to including surveillance for threats such as LSD vectors.
- CA, via RMAC, has also recently called for improved alignment of our disease response planning and our international trade arrangements, to ensure that our response plans are consistent with our trade obligations.
- Cattle Australia is supportive of innovation that allows for better coordination and resourcing of biosecurity measures such as, but not limited to, the Screw worm fly program.
- CA looks forward to the next meeting of this steering committee and their improved availability for these meetings into the future.
- The committee discussed the implications of SWF market access. B Hendry confirmed that countries ask what we are doing for SWF, and are generally accepting that we have a dedicated program and are monitoring for possible incursions.

Conclusion/s

- The Committee accepted the verbal update.

Action/s

16. AHA to contact DAFF to confirm whether importing countries have trade requirements in relation to SWF as this has implications for the impact of any potential SWF incursion.

5 Entomology expertise (G Brown & M Nye)

5.1 Reference entomologist update

- G Brown spoke to the paper provided
- Discussion on the insectocutor trial and the challenges with sending trap collections from PMG to Australia for identification. G Brown noted flies can be stored in the fridge to prevent mould, and are still identifiable. This is an option if flies need to be stored for a before transport. NAQS noted that not all areas in PNG are accessible by vehicle and fridges are not always available.
- No gaps in the reference specimen collection were identified by the Committee. Reviewing the reference specimen collection will be a standing agenda item.
- W Janson advised that a new product, Credelio plus, can expel ticks from dogs and should also be able to expel SWF maggots. The product works within 2 hours and has 100% expulsion rate for ticks within 24 hours. Treatment to be used afterwards and not as focused treatment.
- Noted some updates to the Diagnostic Manual are required.

Conclusion/s

- The Committee accepted the update from the Reference Entomologist.

Action/s

17. NSW to share an invitation to the annual DV Conference with the Committee

18. Jurisdictions to confirm where their reference specimens are housed and to advise AHA of any changes to the reference specimen section in the Business Plan (Appendix F).
19. AHA and G Brown to update the Diagnostic Manual.

6 Awareness and communications materials

6.1 Update on brochure and poster (M Nye)

- AHA to update all communications materials to remove the 'Watch' from the EAD Hotline wording (noting the already printed hard copy materials with the older wording will be used up first).
- The Committee discussed platforms and opportunities to promote awareness of the SWF program with private vets and producers, such as ways to leverage through established channels including newsletters, NABSnet, PetStock/Greencross/Petbarn training programs, Beef Week etc.
- NSW noted private vet feedback showed that targeted EAD communications material has been very beneficial.
- Noted inconsistency between the brochure and poster, and the Diagnostic Manual in relation to the duration of boiling time. The Committee confirmed that the maggots should be in almost boiling water for two minutes.
- Qld noted in p. 60 of the Diagnostic Manual there may be incorrect statistics. BSL understanding is that the PCR can detect 1 in 1000 flies with 100% sensitivity, not "at least 95%". Also, the wording of the statistics in the first paragraph could be misconstrued to mean that there is still only a single SWF in the trap of 50,000, when there is an assumption of 50 (prevalence of 1 in 1000). AHA, G Brown and Qld to work to update the manual as required.

Conclusion/s

- Committee supported that the correct time for the boiling of maggots is 2 minutes (not 30 seconds) and that the wording in relation to PCR sensitivity needed to be reviewed.

Action/s

20. AHA to do call out for number of kits and communications materials.
21. Committee to identify communications opportunities and AHA to provide support.
22. AHA to update the materials to remove the 'watch' from the EAD hotline.
23. AHA to review the brochure, posture and Diagnostic Manual and correct the inconsistency in relation to boiling time.
24. AHA, G Brown to review the Diagnostic Manual in consultation Qld in relation to sensitivity of detection of SWF by PCR.

6.2 Other collateral (e.g., kits; magnets etc.)

- AHA noted that the video will be updated in early 2024, with input from Industry to ensure the video has a focus on producer awareness.

Conclusion/s

- Committee noted the update on the video and other collateral.

Action/s

NIL

7 R&D, training and diagnostic resources

7.1 Update (J Mollinger)

- BSL has completed its in-house validation for the duplex PCR for OWSWF and NWSWF. NATA accreditation is not currently being pursued due to challenges with criteria to prove efficacy through positive results. The duplex PCR will be published in a scientific journal when time permits.
- BSL has shared the new test procedures with NSW EMAI (Cheryl Jenkins) and is willing to share these in confidence with WA and the NT. This will be helpful in producing data from samples sourced from a wider geographic area, which would support NATA accreditation if this was to be pursued.
- Detection limit is about 1 in 1000 flies (14 grams worth of flies).
- AHA will confirm financials for PCR testing and send to the jurisdictions to confirm whether this is an appropriate amount for a duplex PCR
- Discussion on the OWSWF SPREAD model, with AHA noting that UNE, who developed the model, have quoted a 100-200K price range for the required updates.
- Agreement on the importance of the SPREAD model, plus an updated risk assessment for SWF to the program.
- AusVet has provided a quote for a risk assessment model for incursion (65K) and spread model (72K). AHA will continue to explore the possibility of a vet/ag honours student to undertake a qualitative risk assessment for SWF.
- Discussion on securing the ongoing supply of Lucitraps (or an equivalent) as these are no longer being manufactured by Bugs For Bugs.
- NT and QLD have enough traps to last another 2-3 years. Noted that the traps are durable, with the bottom of traps tending to fail first through staining and damage.
- AHA sent 10 traps to each jurisdiction at the beginning of 2022. G Brown has a large collection of spare traps.
- The cost of traps from the previous supplier was a little less than \$300 each.
- AHA and the Committee to investigate if 3D printing is a viable option. A proof-of-concept trap would need to be placed out into a harsh northern environment for several years to test its durability.

Conclusion/s

- The Committee accepted the update and congratulated Qld on the development the duplex PCR.

Action/s

25. WA and NT to confirm with Qld the contacts for their labs for Qld to share the duplex PCR test procedures.
26. AHA in consultation with the jurisdictions to develop a financial figure for duplex PCR testing reimbursement.
27. New duplex PCR details to be added into Diagnostic Manual after publication.
28. Qld to provide an expected timeframe for writing and publishing of the PCR publication.
29. AHA to reach out again to the universities for any vet/ag honours students who would potentially be interested in a student project on SWF– reviewing the archives, undertaking a literature review and using a quantitative Rapid Risk Assessment (RRA) tool to assess the likelihood of a SWF incursion.
30. AHA to explore the development of a prototype 3D printed trap with the jurisdictions.

8 Program documentation

8.1 Work Instructions for adult fly trapping and targeted myiasis inspection work (M Nye)

Conclusion/s

- The Committee did not identify any issues with the current program documentation.

Action/s

- AHA to add a note around reason for the 10 -day trap duration into the adult fly trapping work instruction.

8.2 Business Plan 2023–26 (updates for 2023–24) B Hendry

- The format of the Business Plan will be updated as part of a broader update of program plans across AHA.
- It was noted that the SC members do not pay for their own annual meeting attendance, and this needs to be updated in the Business Plan.
- A risk was identified that if we do not have a contemporary understanding about the risks (likelihood, impact, spread) of an incursion of SWF, then we cannot evaluate whether the level of surveillance and preparedness for SWF is sufficient.
- The committee noted that the SWFSPP program had an underspend of approximately \$20,000 in at the end of the 2022-23 FY. It is likely that programs across AHA will have a CPI increase of about 3.5% for the 24-25 FY.
- NSW will confirm who will be their ongoing 'southern jurisdictions' representative on the Committee.

Conclusion/s

Action/s

- AHA to update the risk register with the risks identified.
- AHA to update Business Plan to clarify that the Program pays for Committee member's annual meeting attendance.
- AHA to advise the Committee on the history of the program funding splits.

9 Other business

9.1 AusPestCheck update (E Christofi)

- E Christofi gave a presentation and demonstration of AusPestCheck® using the pilot SWFSPP test data.
AHA is developing documentation to record how each AusPestCheck® data field was agreed to by each of the national animal health surveillance program committees.
- AHA confirmed that clinical cases of myiasis are recorded in NAHIS (national notifiable disease investigation) rather than in the SWFSPP program.
- The southern states do not have access to SWFSPP data generated by the northern states, however, each northern jurisdictions could choose to share its data with the southern states in AusPestCheck®.

Conclusion/s

- The Committee noted the AusPestCheck® presentation and demonstration.

Action/s

NIL

9.2 (a) Placeholder of other items of business

- E Bradden asked how the southern representative relays the information discussed in this meeting to the other southern jurisdictions. AHA to provide additional information to NSW and include in the Business Plan around the role of the southern jurisdictions representative.
- AHA has sent NSW communications materials to NSW for NSW to circulate to the other southern jurisdictions.

Action/s

35. NSW to reach out to the other southern jurisdictions about what they want out of the SWF program meeting.
36. AHA to liaise with NSW to develop a suitable post-meeting communique.

9.2 (b) Date/location of next meeting

- 10th-11th September 2024 – Townsville, Qld.

SWFSPP STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING SEPTEMBER 2023 ACTION REGISTER

#	ACTION	WHO	BY
1	Circulate Action items to the committee OOS.	AHA	Completed
2	Check the 'grey' literature on NWSWF modelling from the US through professional contacts and to share with AHA, if available (carried over).	G Weerasinghe	January 2024
3	Liaise with US contacts with the aim of acquiring additional larvae and adult NWSWF samples (carried over).	G Weerasinghe	January 2024
4	Provide a project update to the Committee out of session on the PNG insectocutor trial.	G Weerasinghe	November 2023
5	Circulate LSD incursion AusVet paper to the committee.	AHA	Completed
6	Create a new SWF video and work with Industry on messaging to help to encourage reporting (carried over).	AHA	February 2024
7	Explore the development of other communications materials such as a glove-box guide (carried over).	AHA	September 2024
8	Investigate opportunities to conduct social research on awareness amongst veterinarians of the SWF program (carried over).	AHA	September 2024
9	Work with NAQS to include a table in the quarterly reports for jurisdictions to fill out details of maggot submissions.	AHA	September 2024
10	Raise with NAMP Steering Committee a proposal to include SWF myasis inspections concurrently with NAMP sampling activities in NAMP herds	AHA	November 2023
11	Update the Business Plan to include 6 traps 6 times per year for the NT.	AHA	October 2023
12	Provide AHA with updated traps to be include into the SWF Business Plan	Qld	October 2023
13	Add the new Qld trapping site into NAHIS	AHA	Completed
14	Provide the reference paper about the reasons for 10-day trapping to AHA who will circulate it to the committee OOS.	G Brown	Completed
15	WA to confirm current trapping activities and notify AHA	WA	October 2023

16	Contact DAFF to confirm whether importing countries have trade requirements in relation to SWF as this has implications for the impact of any potential SWF incursion	AHA	January 2024
17	Share an invitation to the annual DV Conference with the Committee	NSW	Completed
18	Confirm where reference specimens are housed and to advise AHA of any changes to the reference specimen section in the Business Plan (Appendix F).	Jurisdictions	January 2024
19	Update the Diagnostic Manual.	AHA & G Brown	January 2024
20	Call out for number of kits and communications material	AHA	January 2024
21	Identify communications opportunities and AHA to provide support	Committee	September 2024
22	Update the materials to remove the 'watch' from the EAD hotline.	AHA	January 2024
23	Review the brochure, posture and Diagnostic Manual and correct the inconsistency in relation to boiling time.	AHA	January 2024
24	Review the Diagnostic Manual in consultation Qld in relation to sensitivity of detection of SWF by PCR	AHA & G Brown	January 2024
25	WA and NT to confirm with Qld the contacts for their labs for Qld to share the duplex PCR test procedures.	WA & NT	October 2023
26	AHA in consultation with the jurisdictions to develop a financial figure for duplex PCR testing reimbursement	AHA	December 2023
27	New duplex PCR details to be added into Diagnostic Manual after publication		January 2024
28	Provide an expected timeframe for writing and publishing of the PCR publication	QLD	October 2023
29	AHA to reach out again to the universities for any vet/ag honours students who would potentially be interested in a student project on SWF– reviewing the archives, undertaking a literature review and using a quantitative Rapid Risk Assessment (RRA) tool to assess the likelihood of a SWF incursion.	AHA	March 2024
30	Explore the development of a prototype 3D printed trap with the jurisdictions	AHA	September 2024
31	Add a note around reason for the 10 -day trap duration into the adult fly trapping work instruction.	AHA	October 2023
32	Update the risk register with the risks identified.	AHA	October 2023

33	Update Business Plan to clarify that the Program pays for Committee member's annual meeting attendance.	AHA	October 2023
34	Advise the Committee on the history of the program funding splits.	AHA	December 2023
35	NSW to reach out to the other southern jurisdictions about what they want out of the SWF program meeting.	NSW	December 2023
36	AHA to liaise with NSW to develop a suitable post-meeting communique.	AHA	December 2023