

11 November 2022

NSW Necropsy and sampling techniques video report

NSDIP 2021-2022

Project Overview

NSW DPI has previously provided hands-on necropsy and sampling workshops for non-government veterinarians in NSW through regional Emergency Animal Disease (EAD) Days and local necropsy demonstrations at Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute (EMAI).

This project was to create a video resource, of sheep necropsy and sampling techniques, that will be available to a wider veterinary audience. The aim was to improve and continue the engagement with more non-government (private) veterinarians to improve their competence and confidence in disease investigations, particularly the appropriate necropsy and sampling needed to exclude or diagnose significant diseases. This video will help involve those vets in remote areas who are more difficult to reach and educate via face-to-face seminars, but who are key to our EAD surveillance.

Objectives and Scope

To increase the knowledge, skill and confidence of private veterinarians in:

- conducting appropriate necropsies in the field
- collecting appropriate samples to the EMAI Veterinary Laboratories
- identifying the best transport conditions for sending quality samples to the laboratory
- using appropriate personal protective equipment

The objectives of this proposal are consistent with NSDI Program Objectives:

1. To improve the quality and increase the quantity of livestock and wildlife disease investigations conducted by non-government veterinary practitioners in collaboration with governments.
2. To promote effective collaboration between non-government veterinary practitioners and Governments in livestock and wildlife disease investigations

Outputs

1. A professional video will be available for remote veterinarians (government and non-government, Australia wide)
 - a. The video will be available online, on the NSW DPI website.
 2. The video will be premiered at the 2022 District Veterinarians conference at Menangle in April 2022 for initial market testing and review
 - a. The planned premier of the video was cancelled due to a flooding event, so the video was made available through an email link to Local Land Services veterinarians and biosecurity officers. An online survey was open to viewers for feedback.
 3. Australian veterinarians and para-veterinarians will have a high-quality resource available online
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Project summary

A professional video production company was engaged to record at EMAI and edit the content. Magpie Creative has done work with EMAI in the past, including for the spills training video and promotional videos. They specialise in healthcare and government clients.

The video was emailed to veterinarians and para-veterinarians through Local Land Services and an online feedback survey was available for viewers.

Through the online survey:

- 85.71% of respondents were veterinarians,
- 14.29% identified as non-vets,
- 100% of respondents worked at LLS.

Technical content and sound quality were rated highly (100%), visual content was rated at 70% on average. The respondents rated the video overall at 4.7 out of 5.

For future projects, the following topics were chosen for video development (Fig 1):

If another video was made, what topics should it cover?	Response %
Neurological investigation (removal and submission of brain and spinal cord)	42.86 %
Sample collection during post-mortem	14.29%
Sample packaging and sending	28.57%
Normal post-mortem changes or artefacts	100.00%
Describing lesions in post-mortem reports	85.71%
Post-mortem investigation of other species (e.g. poultry)	42.86%

Comment: "PM depending on clinical signs: GI symptoms in calf, respiratory, sudden death etc"

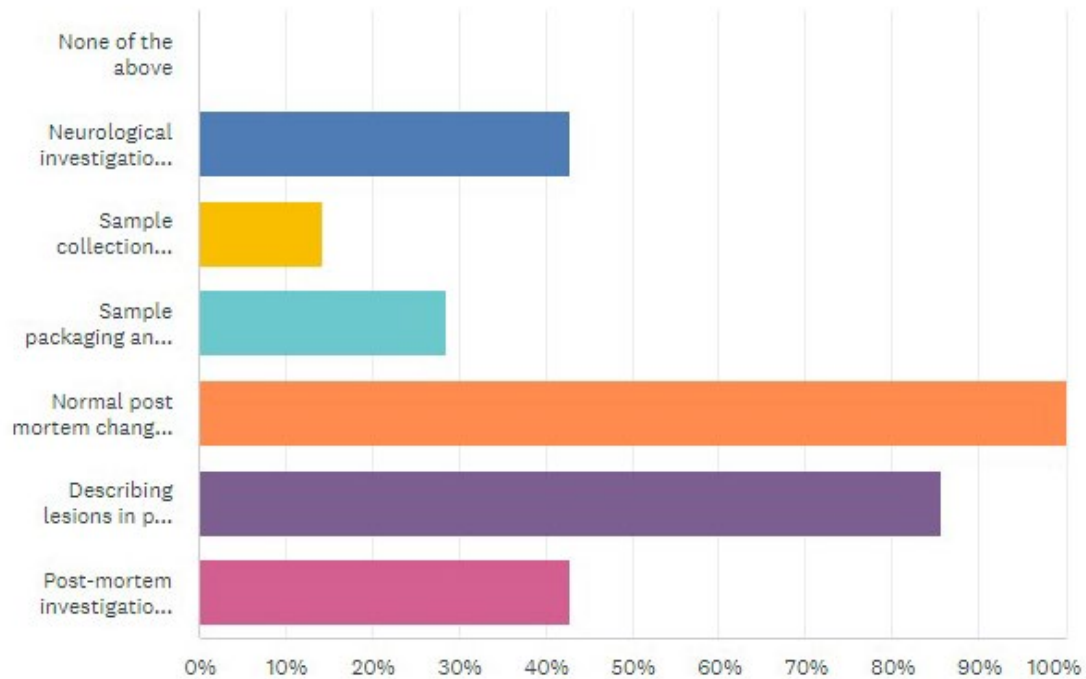


Fig 1. Topics identified by survey participants for future video development

The survey respondents identified the EMAI website as the most preferred method of video access and distribution for NSW (Fig 2).

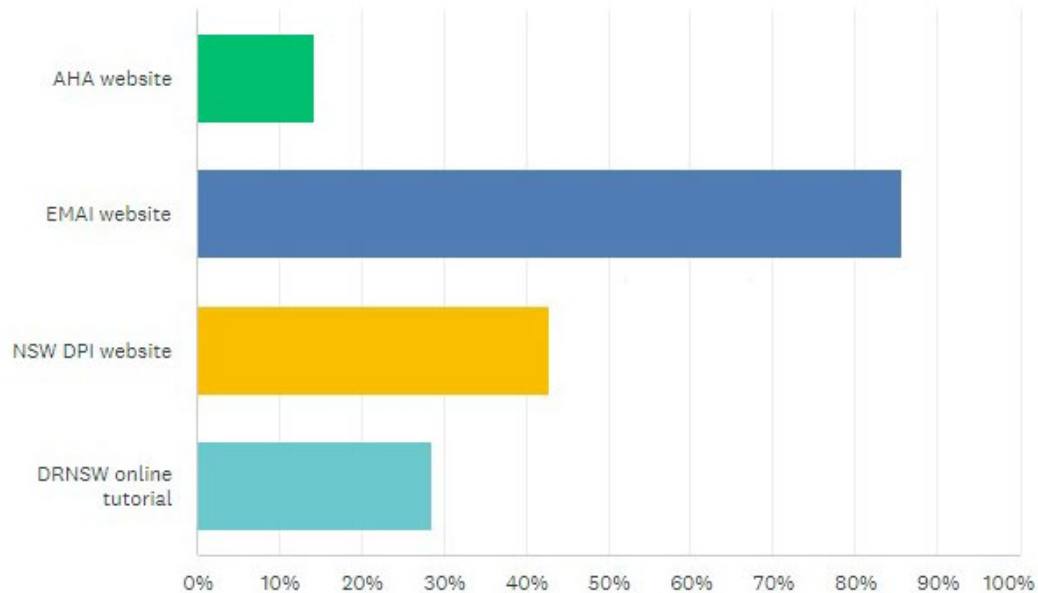


Fig 2. Survey participants' preferred method of online distribution of the necropsy video

Deliverables and Timeframe

- 19 October 2021: Working group established *COMPLETED*
- 3 December 2021: Script, storyboard, resources and technical information reviewed and finalised *COMPLETED*
- 20-23 December 2021: Filming and recording will be conducted for 1 day at EMAI *COMPLETED*
- 24 Dec – 4 Feb 2022: Editing completed by Magpie Creative *COMPLETED*
- 5-7 April 2022: Video premiers to audience of field veterinarians for feedback *CANCELLED FLOODING*
- 20 May 2022: Survey from vets evaluated, video available for distribution to non-government veterinarians *COMPLETED, DELAYED TO OCTOBER 2022*

Key Stakeholders and Responsibilities

- NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Biosecurity and Food Safety Branch: project management, technical input, specialist personnel
- Local Land Services: hosting event for premier of video, survey feedback

Budget

Item / activity	A\$
Estimate of costs for video production, filming, editing, photography	
Video development payment 1	3,305.94
Video development payment 2	6,611.88
Video development payment 3	6,611.88
IN KIND contribution	
PPE, sheep carcasses, post-mortem facility, equipment and personnel	6,500.00
Editing of video, additional editing	2,200.00
BALANCE	\$16,529.70

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