

The Link

CONNECTING THE AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITY FROM THE FARM TO THE SUPPLY CHAIN



**John's
disease in
cattle: the
big picture**

**IGAB review:
where are we now?**

**Schipp at the
helm of the OIE**

Working together for animal health

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We would love to feature your work in *The Link*! Anyone involved in the animal health sector is encouraged to submit articles about their achievements, research or innovations in agricultural production, a personal profile or an opinion piece.

Our next edition's theme is: *Emergency Animal Disease: are we prepared?* However, please feel free to send through articles that don't relate to this theme as we may still include it. The deadline for submissions for the next edition is 3 August 2018.

For more information visit www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/our-publications/publication-guidelines

Send your submissions to publications@animalhealthaustralia.com.au

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Animal Health Australia

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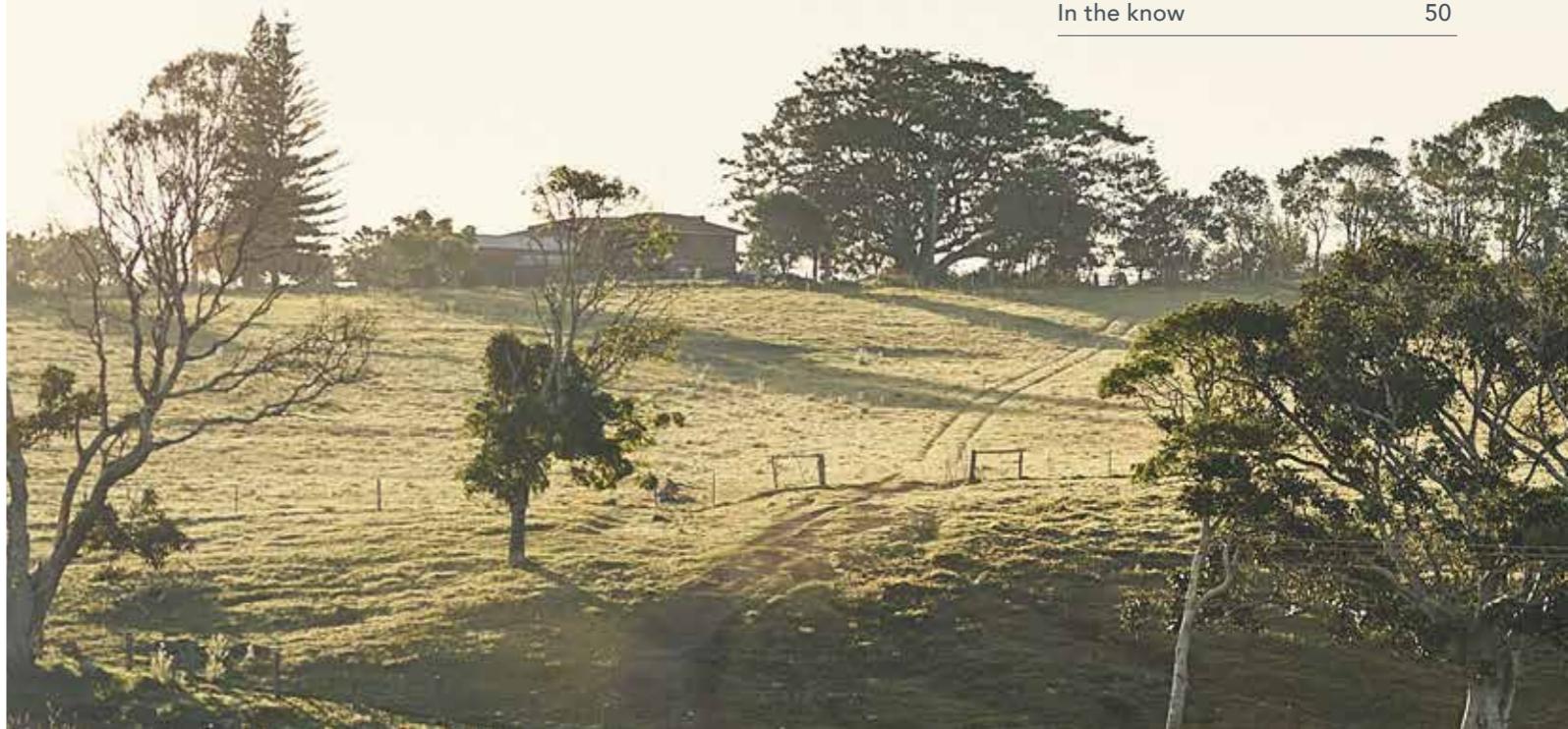
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About Animal Health Australia

What do we do?

Animal Health Australia (AHA) is the trusted national coordinator, brokering arrangements for government and industry partnerships and collaborations to strengthen animal health and biosecurity in Australia.

34 staff

Working to achieve a resilient Australian animal health system, recognised nationally and internationally.

33 members

AHA's members include the Australian, state and territory governments, major livestock industries and other service providers.

53 projects

Focussed on enhancing Australia's emergency animal disease preparedness and response, biosecurity, market access, welfare, traceability and surveillance.



Our members

Australian, State and Territory Governments



Livestock Industries



Service Providers



From the CEO

Welcome to the first issue of *The Link*!

We're very excited to bring you our brand new publication! At AHA we're lucky enough to see firsthand the effort and passion that goes into Australia's agriculture industry – now with the launch of *The Link* you can find out about all the amazing work too!

Twice a year in *The Link* we'll feature stories from producers, vets and others who work in the agriculture industry and share what AHA is working on to strengthen the animal health system. We'll showcase the achievements of our members, partners and stakeholders and bring you the latest Australian agricultural news and innovations. We hope that by sharing these stories we can help Australian farmers get the best possible outcomes on-farm.

We recently returned from Beef Australia 2018 in Rockhampton, Queensland and the Australian Veterinary Association (AVA) Conference in Brisbane and have had a fantastic time meeting and engaging with a variety of producers and veterinarians (p4). You'll find out more about our Beef Australia and AVA Conference adventures in the next issue.

One of the most important topics to our members and stakeholders is on-farm biosecurity. With several big changes taking place over the past year we thought it would be fitting to make on-farm biosecurity the theme of this inaugural issue; and with the announcement of

an additional \$121.6 million in the 2018-19 Federal Budget to enhance Australia's biosecurity system over the next five years, we'll be watching this space very closely.

One of the most significant changes in the area of biosecurity were the adjustments to the management of Johne's disease that took place throughout 2016 and 2017. Our feature article (p11) provides a summary of the key elements that changed, shares the thoughts of some of the key individuals involved in the decision-making and implementation process and outlines what AHA and other groups have learnt from the experience.

Don't forget, if there's something you're passionate about that you'd like to submit a piece on, or if you would like to advertise your program or product, get in touch with us at publications@animalhealthaustralia.com.au. Keep in mind, the theme for our

In this edition

Meet the new president of the World Organisation of Animal Health - Australia's very own Dr Mark Schipp. Congratulations Mark on this incredible achievement!

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Find out all the latest Farm Biosecurity Project news.

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Kylie Stretton, Cattle Council of Australia's 2017 Rising Champion, shares her story.

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next issue is 'Emergency Animal Disease: are we prepared?'

I hope you enjoy reading *The Link* just as much as we have enjoyed putting it together for you.

Kathleen Plowman

Kathleen Plowman
AHA CEO



(L-R): AHA Chairman Peter Milne, with AHA CEO Kathleen Plowman at Beef Australia 2018

Out and about

AHA exhibited at the annual **AVA conference** in Brisbane, QLD and at **Beef Australia 2018** in Rockhampton, QLD during May. We had a great time meeting so many fabulous people, who are passionate about their role in Australian agriculture.



Trent, Southern Highlands Veterinary Centre, NSW

"I love interacting with people passionate about animals and their welfare and feeling like you make a difference to animal health on a daily basis."



Maggie and Effie, post-grad agriculture students, University of New England, NSW

"We're excited to be at Beef and seeing the range of job opportunities the industry offers!"



Marlena, University of Melbourne, VIC

"I grew up on a low income with a single mother. We relied on the education of our vets for the care of our animals. This is why I wanted to become a vet...in this industry you can make a really positive social impact."

Follow Marlena's journey on Facebook and Instagram at @veterinary_adventures



Alex Thomas (CEO, Petsure), Kathleen Plowman (CEO, AHA), Heather Neil (CEO, RSPCA Australia) and Paula Parker (President, AVA)

"You can't be kind to others if you're not kind to yourself.... it's okay to make mistakes, just learn from them." - Kathleen Plowman



Monika, The AVA Wellness Stand

"We want to help vet professionals thrive - in order to thrive it's important to lead a balanced life; which is why it is one of our paramount issues we try to address."



Beau and Katherine, cattle farmers, Sarina QLD

"We're passionate about working in a natural environment every day. We work hard to try and spread positive stories about the benefits of beef."



Nicole, Goondoola Red Angus, Orange NSW

"I'm excited to see the rate of innovation and growth in the beef industry."

Schipp at the helm of the OIE

AHA Communications team

We caught up with Dr Mark Schipp, following his appointment as President to the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and found out his thoughts on the international animal health system and some of his career highlights so far.

What does the appointment to OIE president mean to you?

Taking up the role of OIE President is an enormous privilege and opportunity.

The OIE is the international standards setting body for animal health and welfare. It was established in 1924 in response to

ongoing outbreaks of rinderpest; Australia joined in 1925.

The OIE aspires to bring to the global community animal health, animal welfare, veterinary public health, food safety, food security and the economic benefits which flow from these. These are lofty goals but with the global challenges that we face today, which threaten our continued quality of life, we need to aim high.

Becoming the OIE President is an opportunity to showcase Australia's achievements and approach to animal health and welfare. It provides us with an opportunity to shape the global agenda on animal health and antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

For me, it is also an opportunity to represent our region of the Asia Pacific in this international forum. Our region is the most populous

and also the most productive in animal agriculture but often lacks a voice in international forums.

As a veterinarian from Australia I will be taking the opportunity to emphasise the important role we all can play in the global issues of animal health and welfare, food security and AMR.

What are the highlights of your career so far?

I have been very fortunate throughout my career.

I have been a government veterinarian since I graduated from Murdoch University in 1989, initially with the Western Australian Department of Agriculture and then with the Commonwealth.

Sir Walter Murdoch, the prominent Australian author and philosopher after which the university was named, once reflected on his inability to pursue studies in medicine: 'There are probably people alive, who would not be alive if I had been their physician.' I think the same can be said of me not entering clinical practice – there are probably animals alive today that would not be alive if I had been their veterinarian!

In WA I had the opportunity to work over most of the state as a District Veterinary Officer. I then

worked in export abattoirs in WA, Victoria and Tasmania, mostly in small abattoirs, which meant that I had to take a lot of personal responsibility, especially in the areas of animal welfare and food safety.

I came to Canberra in 1996 to work in the export meat program which was an exciting time of reform. I was working in the field of export certification when I was selected to take up an overseas posting in Seoul, South Korea from 2000-2003 and from there to Beijing, China from 2003-2006. This was an absolute highlight, to be working in Asia at a time of intense interest in the region. We had just commenced free trade agreement negotiations with China so I would regularly brief the Prime Minister and various Ministers as they came through. My children learnt Chinese and kept it up when we returned to Canberra.

On my return I was promoted to lead the export meat and certification program where I remained until the 2011 Indonesian live cattle event. Australia's Chief Veterinary Officer (ACVO) at the time, Andy Carroll had just retired and I was asked to act in the role which was a very busy period as we developed the Exporter Supply Chain Assurance System, which was applied initially to cattle exports to Indonesia and then to all our export markets for live cattle and sheep. Later that year I was confirmed in the role of ACVO.

Very satisfying work for me to date has also been to help improve veterinary services in developing countries which supports our broader development goals. Veterinarians play a much larger role than simply improving animal health outcomes.



Dr Mark Schipp delivering an intervention at the OIE General Session.

When veterinarians are engaged in livestock health in developing countries, they support better health outcomes for humans, they support gender equity and empower women and they allow a new generation to access education. When a veterinarian is engaged in understanding and combating emerging infectious and zoonotic diseases they ensure better human health. It has been a great privilege to contribute to this very meaningful work.

As Australia's delegate to the OIE I have overseen the development of international trade rules which aligns with my main work of developing scientifically based animal health and welfare policy and advice. In 2012, at my first OIE General Session I was elected to the OIE Council representing our region and in 2015 I was

elected as Vice-President of the OIE Assembly. In 2015 we were very successful at the OIE elections in getting three Australian experts elected to the specialist commissions, a level of representation not achieved by any other country.

What do you hope to achieve during your tenure?

The Australian Government places a high priority on protecting and strengthening international rules that guide trade, and actively encourages others to adopt international standards. During the tenure of the OIE Presidency, I hope to:

- i. Increase member participation in standard setting and encouraging greater adoption and implementation of standards by trading partners.
- ii. Improve the transparency and integrity of processes, for example those that lead to OIE acceptance of member country disease statuses and improve accessibility to data that underpins official declarations. The OIE has improved dramatically since 2012 in transparency, accountability and governance, but more needs to be done to build confidence in the institution.

Improved transparency in OIE processes for recognising official disease status has a number of benefits, including improving our confidence in using the OIE's recognition of trading partners. It also has implications for improving the credibility of the OIE's official disease/risk recognition system, thereby improving the credibility of the OIE's recognition of our

Although all 182 member countries of the OIE participate in its annual meeting, very few contribute to the standard setting process, so I am keen to help all OIE members become active participants. There is concern that OIE members endorse international standards, but not take them up and apply them, so the OIE has initiated a project to investigate why the standards are not more widely implemented. It may be that some countries need to build their confidence and capacity in standard setting and implementation.

disease status. This vital work underpins the OIE's core role as a standard setting body.

- iii. Strengthening the veterinary voice in global discussions

The global animal health policy environment is becoming increasingly complex and problems are presenting unprecedented challenges where global solutions must encompass the needs of a diverse range of stakeholders. The OIE is the international organisation for government veterinary services and I believe we have a lot to contribute to key global issues such as AMR and food security.

Veterinary services must be a strong, influential and effective contributor to One Health discussions, especially AMR, so that our concerns are central to the design and direction of global actions. For example, other international bodies are working to remove veterinary and animal agriculture access to antibiotics. I believe it is essential that we maintain access to antibiotics provided they are used responsibly. In this area Australia has a lot of valuable experience to share, and as President, I will be looking to work closely with the Director General to encourage a proactive, meaningful presence on these important issues.

What are your thoughts on the collective international animal health system?

The international animal health

system relies on the veterinary services of each individual government, and some of these are weak and need support. I spoke to the CVO of one African country and asked why they were not undertaking surveillance and his reply was that if they leave the urban areas they are at risk of being shot! So, there are some very serious challenges that we do not experience in Australia.

It is important that the international standards developed by the OIE do not act perversely and discourage true reporting of a country's animal health status. Countries that undertake surveillance and report disease in their animal populations should not be penalised for behaving ethically. There is still some work to be done in this regard.

The OIE also has a role in measuring the performance of veterinary services to identify weaknesses or non-compliances in national veterinary services. This information then allows donors to support capacity building to strengthen veterinary services and animal health surveillance. This is particularly important for our region where we rely on the veterinary services of our northern neighbours to detect and report disease as part of our early warning and preparedness.

"When veterinarians are engaged in livestock health in developing countries, they support better health outcomes for humans, they support gender equity and empower women..."

I want to model good behaviour internationally in this regard. Australia has strong veterinary services; we conduct surveillance and accurately report our disease and health status, and we rely on this status to access export markets. Our animal health status is also the basis for our biosecurity system. Both trade and biosecurity rely on the international standards developed by the OIE.

AT A GLANCE

1924

OIE established

1925

Australia joined the OIE

182

Member countries of the OIE

Dr Mark Schipp presenting on AMR: Ongoing challenges and opportunities at the AVA 2018 conference.

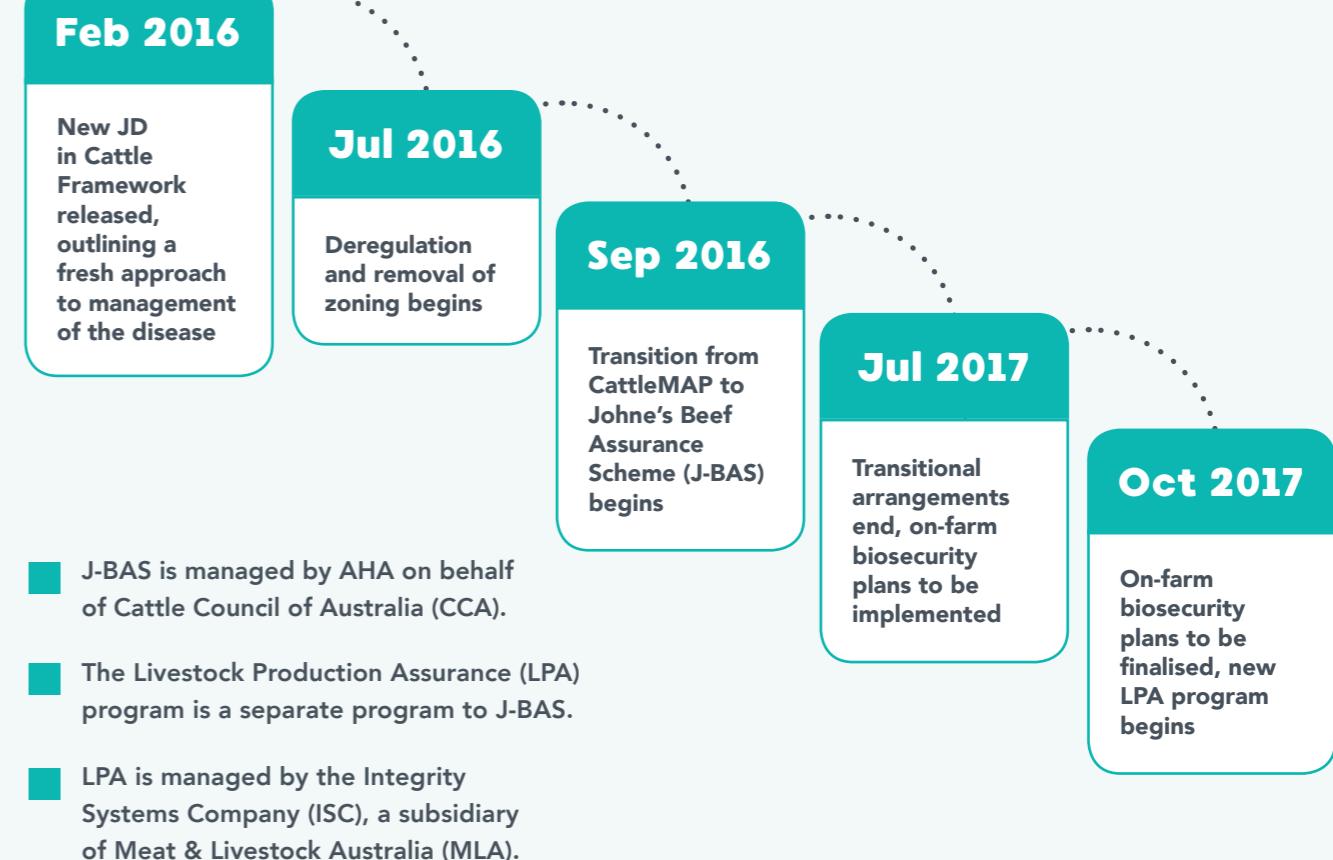


John's disease in cattle: the big picture



Dr Rob Barwell
AHA's Senior Manager Biosecurity

Many significant changes took place over 2016-2017 in the management of John's disease (JD) in cattle. The transition from a regulated disease to a condition that should be managed as part of on-farm biosecurity wasn't always smooth sailing. Here we explain what the changes are, how they fit with other biosecurity programs and what the parties involved have learnt from the implementation process.



WHAT IS JD?

JD is a wasting disease that affects various species of animal including cattle, sheep, goats and alpacas. JD affects the animal by reducing the amount of nutrients it can absorb from food, resulting in wasting and eventual death.

Australia is privileged in the sense that we have relatively little cases of JD compared to many other developed agricultural countries.

SO WHAT CHANGED?

In February 2016, a new national approach was announced that included:

- the removal of zoning around Australia
- the ceasing of quarantining properties as a control measure
- a move to a market-driven approach where producers undertake practices dependant on their situation and market requirements.

The approach was endorsed by the cattle industry and state governments and focussed on managing on-farm biosecurity risks, rather than controlling the disease through regulation.

Justin Toohey, CCA's Animal Health, Welfare, Biosecurity and Environment Advisor provided a deeper insight into the rationale behind the changes.

"The previous approach had significant government involvement and intervention, especially when a JD positive animal was found. When this happened, the property would

be quarantined at great financial and psychological cost to the producer. Under the new system, producers can still trade even if JD is found on their property," said Mr Toohey.

The national approach to JD management treats the disease as one of many that producers must manage within their business. As a result, the J-BAS system was introduced, which allows producers to communicate to buyers of their cattle what JD risk they believe is present.

J-BAS is a voluntary, self-assessed score that requires an on-farm biosecurity plan to be in place on the property. The score you give your cattle is based on the likelihood of any previous exposure to JD and your preparedness in managing risks.

The J-BAS is just one of a wide range of tools developed for producers to help them manage JD in cattle including:

- templates for the on-farm biosecurity plan
- the Cattle Health Declaration
- the J-BAS Scoring system chart
- JD biosecurity checklist
- a comprehensive FAQ about JD in Cattle.

WA and the NT have maintained a more regulated approach for any producers looking to transport cattle into the area. WA have an entry requirement of J-BAS 8 (J-BAS 7 if you're transporting from Queensland) whilst transporting cattle through the NT requires a minimum J-BAS score of 6.



For further information visit:

- Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development WA - www.agric.wa.gov.au
- Department of Primary Industry and Resources NT - www.nt.gov.au

HOW DO THESE CHANGES FIT WITH OTHER PROGRAMS?

The commonality between the changes to JD management and the LPA program is that they share the need for a biosecurity plan, are market-driven and both are voluntary.

In the transition from deregulation of JD management to the LPA program, producers were required to complete an on-farm biosecurity plan by 1 October 2017. If you had already completed the on-farm biosecurity plan as part of your JD risk assessment, you were not required to complete a new one for LPA accreditation.

Mr Toohey said that all producers should strive to be LPA accredited.

"This allows producers to use the LPA-stamped NVD when selling their livestock, giving them a distinct marketing advantage over those without an NVD," said Mr Toohey.

More information on the changes can be found here: www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/new-approach-jd-cattle.

WHAT WE LEARNT FROM THE JD IN CATTLE IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS

AHA hosted a workshop in October 2017 to reflect on the JD communications process. Using the campaign as a case study, our members, partners and stakeholders came together to identify what worked and what didn't and how future communications campaigns could be improved.

These findings have been taken on board by AHA and the other parties involved and will inform the development of future communications campaigns – ensuring future messaging to producers and members of the supply chain reflects the diversity of audiences and meets their information needs.

"Under the new system, producers can still trade even if JD is found on their property"

Key findings from this workshop

- For many producers, much of the messaging around the JD in cattle changes missed the mark. Reasons for this varied, from too generic an approach to the messaging, to a lack of specificity regarding differences in the application of the policy to different species or in different jurisdictions.
- The rationale that supported the recasting of the former policy and the introduction of a different one remained unclear for many producers, making it difficult for them to buy into the change.
- Too much time passed between news of a refreshed JD policy being made ready for launch and the producer community coming to understand the practical significance of the policy for the conduct of everyday business.

KEY INSIGHTS



Justin Toohey, Cattle Council of Australia

The major learning from the development and implementation experience revolves around ownership and consultation. New policy implementation circles around three phases: development, implementation and post-implementation. Whilst there was room for improvement in all phases, it was phase three that needed the most work. Although there was a huge effort made to develop communications packages pre-emptively, much more was needed.

In saying this, recognition must be given to the work undertaken by individuals from AHA, Livestock Biosecurity Network, state farming organisations, livestock agencies, government departments and CCA in communicating the changes and supporting producers throughout the transition.



Renata Berglas, AgForce Queensland

There are two clear take away messages for me from the workshop:

- The communications team can't work effectively without the policy team being engaged in the process. The original policy working group that lead the national JD reform should have been engaged in planning communications and championing the information distribution. The communications people involved weren't aware that the policy debate wasn't over and that there was no national consensus on the outcomes of deregulation.
- Not enough consideration was given to producers' ability to adjust to not having zones. In Queensland under the zone system producers didn't worry about JD as it wasn't considered an extensive grazing concern. No one thought about managing risk or what the clinical signs might look like. Everyone was clear on one thing - if the government found JD in your herd, then your business was ruined. In light of this it is not hard to see how from their angle J-BAS and biosecurity planning was just another regulatory burden. Tangible benefits were never explained. This lead to a lack of ownership for the reform process. Who wants to be the one championing more regulation and red tape?



Bonnie Skinner, Livestock Biosecurity Network

My biggest challenge was navigating the misunderstanding of the new policy amongst producers and stakeholders. Unfortunately, the disease itself is not a straightforward one and producers were largely unsure about where risks may lie for them and their enterprises, and how J-BAS was going to operate in practical situations.

I found the producers I spoke to were a mix of supportive, outraged, or on the fence because they weren't sure as to whether this was something that was going to affect them now or in the future. Delivering talks at workshops or speaking to producers one-on-one provided them with some more background knowledge and context. This helped many gain a better understanding.

From the communications workshop, I found that where a change in policy in one industry or species is going to affect others, it's imperative that the relevant stakeholders are brought along for the ride through adequate consultation.

red meat 2018

producer tour • forums • tradeshow • mla agm

SAVE THE DATE

20–23 November 2018
Canberra

IGAB review: where are we now?

AHA Communications team

In 2015, a review of the Intergovernmental Agreement on Biosecurity (IGAB) was initiated by Australia's Agriculture Ministers as part of a broader review of Australia's biosecurity system.

To shed some light on the review process and hear their perspectives on the report's outcomes, we caught up with Wendy Craik, the IGAB review panel chair; David Palmer, a member of the independent IGAB review panel and AHA Board member, and Kevin Shiell, from Australian Dairy Farmers.

Wendy Craik, IGAB review panel chair

The biosecurity world has changed dramatically since the last review (Beale) nearly a decade ago. Risks have increased, while funding has decreased, so the review was initiated to evaluate and identify the best way forward.

I hoped that the report would offer practical suggestions that have a



chance of being implemented and which would garner the general support of all jurisdictions as well as industry, interest groups and individuals across the biosecurity spectrum. I believe the report has achieved this as it provides a detailed path for the next five to 10 years and suggestions for the time after that.

However, it's now up to the governments, industry bodies, the community and groups like AHA to implement the next steps. I envision it will involve putting in place a process for implementing, reporting on and evaluating the recommendations which are agreed to.

For me, working on the review was a rewarding experience. The other panel members and the secretariat members were a delight to work with and helped the process run smoothly.

I found face-to-face consultation to be very useful; the frankness of people we spoke to was refreshing and important

One of the successes of the first IGAB is that there is now a multi-jurisdictional framework and work plan.

in determining the report's outcomes. I also found it was important to deal realistically with the funding issue.

David Palmer, member of the IGAB independent review panel and AHA Board member

The purpose of the review was to analyse the performance capacity in which the jurisdictions and Commonwealth operate and perform the duties required for an efficient biosecurity system.

The report has many key proposals. Some notable ones include:

- Greater incorporation of the environment into IGAB. The coverage to date, in the panel's view, is less than satisfactory. It will be interesting to see where this matter settles. The economic

drivers around environmental tourism remain immense and amount to billions.

- Industry has had little or no say in the first IGAB. We believe the time is now right for greater involvement from industry, hence the recommendation promoting greater roles for AHA and Plant Health Australia (PHA) along with industry and community engagement at National Biosecurity Committee (NBC) level.

From my own perspective I found it a great privilege to be so closely engaged at all levels of the bureaucracies. Gaining an insight into the inner workings of government was a rare treat for me with my industry background.

I certainly believe AHA is beautifully positioned to be part of the conduit between government and industry. The future is simple - a well-funded and resourced public sector complimented by an industry commitment and a positive culture to keep Australia's farms and parklands safe from incursion of diseases and pests. This is everyone's priority.

Kevin Shiell, Australian Dairy Farmers



One of the successes of the first IGAB is that there is now a multi-jurisdictional framework and work plan which offers the capability to look more closely at broadening the commitment among stakeholders to embrace a stronger partnership framework.

The review report highlights the complexity of the national biosecurity system, and the roles and responsibilities of the many participants. With so many stakeholders how best to impart the partnership culture and achieve realistic engagement, is an ongoing challenge.

The proposal for an Industry and Community Committee to sit alongside NBC, is probably about as good as we can hope for at this time, but it has its limitations. At a very broad level, industry involves all agricultural production industries and supply-chains, including transport, processing and product distribution. Then there are the community stakeholders that

will need to be corralled into the arrangement.

The recommendations relating to resourcing also need to be given priority. The report clearly spells out that the national biosecurity system is underfunded.

Industry groups have a role to play in communicating to their constituencies the importance and funding priority of prevention rather than response. Constantly taking this view forward to governments at the political level should also be a priority.

I support the fact that market access is key. Working to improve our management of data and knowledge, nationally as recommended, is critical.

The report provides a comprehensive framework on which to build the biosecurity partnership and we need to respond positively wherever possible. Too much is at stake.

For more info about the IGAB review visit www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/partnerships/nbc/intergovernmental-agreement-on-biosecurity/igabreview.

2012

2015

2017

what's next

Review of the agreement was initiated.

First IGAB came into effect as an agreement between the Commonwealth, state and territory governments (except Tasmania, which supports majority of the agreement) to improve Australia's biosecurity system.

After extensive consultation, final IGAB review report was presented to the Agriculture Ministers' Forum.

Development of a response to the report's findings has been agreed to by the Agriculture Ministers, which will be implemented through the NBC.

Sheep Health Project goes from strength to strength

The Sheep Health Project (SHP) has had a successful 2017-2018, with a number of key activities completed to help sheep producers improve their on-farm biosecurity practices and the health of their sheep flock.

Coordinated by AHA on behalf of WoolProducers Australia (WPA) and Sheep Producers Australia (SPA), the SHP has had a number of highlights, which include the launch of the new Sheep Health Declaration (SHD), significant levels of inspection in the National Sheep Health Monitoring Project (NSHMP) and the success of a number of communications activities.

The creation of the SHD is a particularly important achievement, said Dr Rob Barwell, AHA's Senior Manager Biosecurity.

"The SHD replaced the National Sheep Health Statement and is the most important disease risk management tool sheep buyers have available to them. It enables producers to assess the risk of

diseases such as virulent footrot, ovine brucellosis, JD and other biosecurity risks such as noxious and declared weeds when buying, selling or agisting stock," said Dr Barwell.

The SHD is available on the Farm Biosecurity website to print out or download as a fillable PDF. It can also be completed online when submitting an electronic NVD on the LPA portal.

More efficient data collection and an increase in the number of sheep inspected as part of the NSHMP were also key achievements for the SHP.

"The NSHMP monitors sheep in abattoirs for a number of diseases

Bree Beattie,
AHA's
Biosecurity Coordinator



and conditions and provides feedback to producers, which they can use to manage the health of their sheep flock. I'm pleased to report that in 2017, 5.4 million sheep were inspected, an increase from the same period last year."

"This means that more producers are being supplied with data about their sheep that can help them avoid future losses at the abattoir and boost their profits. The information is now available in Livestock Data Link, which is managed by the ISC," said Dr Barwell.

Another key focus of the SHP is to promote industry management of sheep health and biosecurity, in a way that sustains efficient

"It enables producers to assess the risk of diseases such as virulent footrot, ovine brucellosis, JD and other biosecurity risks such as noxious and declared weeds when buying, selling or agisting stock..."

production and ongoing market access.

"AHA, in conjunction with WPA and SPA, is working hard to get the message out that with good on-farm biosecurity and careful management of sheep health conditions, producers can improve profits at the farm gate," said Dr Barwell.

"To do this, we've circulated biosecurity information through newsletter articles, a social media campaign and animated videos.

"The video, in particular, was a great way to communicate with producers about sheep health and biosecurity. It's the first time we've used this format and it was very successful, with the video reaching

"It's the first time we've used this format and it was very successful, with the video reaching almost 5,000 people through Facebook alone."

almost 5,000 people through Facebook alone.

"Social media has also been useful to raise awareness about ovine brucellosis and ways to manage the condition," said Dr Barwell.

AHA will continue to work with the sheep peak industry bodies to promote sheep health and on-farm biosecurity.

Visit www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/what-we-do/biosecurity-services/sheep-health-project for more information on the SHP. For other tips and tricks to improve biosecurity for your sheep flock, go to the sheep industry page on the Farm Biosecurity website www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/industry/sheep.

*First published in WoolProducers' December 2017 newsletter.



Image credit: Taryn Mokotupu

Record response to poultry welfare standards

AHA Communications team

A record number of submissions have been received on the draft Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Poultry (S&Gs) during the 90 day public consultation period, which came to an end on 26 February 2018.

With over 167,000 submissions, it's the largest response to a public consultation that AHA has managed, said Kathleen Plowman, AHA CEO.

"It's five times the amount of submissions received during the development of welfare standards and guidelines for other industries," said Ms Plowman.

"AHA recognises and appreciates the efforts of all stakeholders who helped spread the word about public consultation, ensuring the message went far and wide. Such extensive public

consultation is what we set out to achieve, so it's a fantastic result.

"We also thank everyone who shared their views on the draft document. These submissions will help guide the development of the next version of the S&Gs and ensure that a robust document is delivered to Australia's agriculture ministers," said Ms Plowman.

The draft standards mark an important step forward in poultry welfare in Australia, moving from the existing voluntary system to national regulation.

Further details about the process can be found at www.animalwelfarestandards.net.au/poultry/poultry-public-consultation



KEY STEPS

1 Public consultation went from Nov 2017 to Feb 2018; over 167,000 submissions were received.

2 Submissions have been reviewed by an independent consultant. A summary report has been delivered to the Animal Welfare Task Group (AWTG). The AWTG includes representatives from all government jurisdictions.

3 Based on the feedback from public consultation, a revised welfare standards document will be developed under the direction of the AWTG.

4 The revised welfare standards will then be provided for consideration to the Stakeholder Advisory Group, which is comprised of representatives from industry bodies, welfare organisations and all government jurisdictions.

5 The S&Gs document will be finalised by the AWTG and progress to Australia's agricultural ministers.

First exercise for the Marine Pest Program

On 7-8 February 2018, AHA in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources and Turning Point Crisis Management, facilitated the first exercise for the Marine Pest Exercise Program.

Funded by the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, the two day exercise included participants from the Australian Government, each jurisdiction, the CSIRO and the Ministry for Primary Industries (New Zealand).

The exercise aimed to provide an opportunity for participants to improve their understanding

of emergency response systems for marine pests, collaboratively discuss their roles and responsibilities in a marine pest response and to highlight any gaps and areas for improvement for future exercises.

Participants found the exercise to be informative and engaging, and appreciated the chance to meet the other participants in person.

A second exercise was held in Sydney during April which engaged government members and stakeholder groups. The second exercise focussed on operational elements of a response and potential impacts of response activities.

"The best thing about this workshop was the opportunity to discuss potential options for the response process with colleagues and talk through grey areas."

- Exercise participant



Participants visited the AHA office for the first marine pest exercise.

Feeding swill is a 'pig' deal!

AHA Communications team

Whether you're a commercial enterprise or own just one pig, you have an important role to play in protecting your property and Australia's pork industry from biosecurity threats.

One of the easiest ways you can do this is by feeding your pigs the right feed and ensuring they don't eat anything that contains or has come into contact with meat, said Dr Rob Barwell, AHA's Senior Manager Biosecurity.



Image credit: Australian Pork Limited

"Swill feeding is also illegal, with significant penalties involved, so it really isn't worth the risk."

"Food waste that has come into contact with meat or contains meat must not be fed to pigs. This type of food waste, known as swill, could contain viruses that are not found in Australian livestock such as foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), which can be passed onto your pigs if they consume the infected food waste.

"The virus can then spread to other animals such as cattle and sheep, which would have significant implications not only for your own property but for the entire Australian livestock industry."

"A commercial pig feed is the best choice for your pigs. However, some pig producers

choose to reduce food waste by feeding it to their pigs. This is okay, as long as you feed them appropriate recycled foods such as fruit, vegetables and bread, which haven't come into contact with meat," said Dr Barwell.

It is believed that swill fed to pigs may have caused the outbreak of FMD in the UK in 2001, which had a devastating impact on farmers and the wider community.

"Prevention is always better than cure. A large outbreak of FMD in Australia could cost \$50 billion over 10 years, so taking simple precautions, such as feeding your pigs the right feed, is crucial," said Dr Barwell.

"Swill feeding is also illegal, with significant penalties involved, so it really isn't worth the risk."

For more information about what is and isn't safe to feed your pigs, visit www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/livestock/pigs/feeding-your-pigs.

Want to save time? Fill out your Goat Health Declarations online!

AHA Communications team

It's now even simpler to protect your property and manage biosecurity risks when purchasing or selling goats, with the addition of the national Goat Health Declaration to the electronic National Vendor Declaration (eNVD) system.

It's a move that makes it quicker and easier for producers to share information about the health of their herd, said Bree Beattie, AHA's Biosecurity Coordinator.

"The Goat Health Declaration is an important risk management tool which allows buyers to assess the risk a potential purchase represents

to their herd. It provides information on a number of significant diseases as well as drenching and vaccination history, giving the potential buyer a thorough picture of the health of the goat they're looking to purchase," said Ms Beattie.

"Now that it's available on the eNVD system, producers can fill out and send Goat Health Declarations with a few clicks, helping to speed up the entire transaction process and making it easier than ever to make an informed purchasing decision."



The Goat Health Declaration joins the NVD on the eNVD system managed by the ISC, allowing producers to fill out the forms at the same time.

"Having these documents in the one location offers benefits to producers beyond saving them time – it can also help them improve their stock management and prevent inaccuracies in the information recorded on the forms," said Ms Beattie.

Producers can login to the eNVD system at <https://ipa.nlis.com.au/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=/> The Goat Health Declaration can also be downloaded from the Farm Biosecurity website at www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/toolkit/declarations-and-statements.

"The Goat Health Declaration is an important risk management tool which allows buyers to assess the risk a potential purchase represents to their herd."

Leadership Profile

AHA Communications team

On its 25th Birthday, with a gala audience of 400 guests, a cohort of 23 people graduated from the Australian Rural Leadership Program (ARLP). AHA's Aquatic Biosecurity Liaison Officer, Helen Jenkins was one of the leaders graduating from the program.

For Helen, taking part in this program had been an aspiration for many years. After working over 27 years in the fisheries industry, she said it was a natural step to take.

"I had wanted to take part in this leadership program for quite some time. In the fishing industry it's held in high esteem and indeed a prestigious program. I was at a stage in my life where I was ready for a new opportunity and to take my leadership skills to a new level," said Helen.

A 15-month program, the ARLP spans 55 days, with five unique sessions through Australia and Indonesia. The program aims to develop participants' leadership thinking, industry, community

and regional engagement, understandings of values and ethics and personal strengths.

"The learning outcomes from the program are collegial and it's about what you experience, reflect on, interact with and teach yourself that strengthens your ability to be more courageous with your leadership journey," said Helen.

With a competitive application process, and a rigorous interview for those who are short listed, Helen was successfully chosen to begin the program in August 2016. Beginning in Australia's Kimberley region, diverse leaders from Australia's rural and remote industries such as beef, grains and art came together to participate in a series of challenges with survival as the ultimate goal.

"The Kimberley part is very secretive, no-one talks about it. You don't know what to expect and you don't know what you're supposed to do. All participants keep the code of silence and don't share what happens so that the next cohort can experience it for themselves," said Helen.

Whilst Helen did well to survive the challenges the cohort were put through, coming home was a different experience.



Helen Jenkins
AHA's Aquatic Biosecurity Liaison Officer

"This was an extremely challenging time for me and was one of the most heartbreaking and emotional times I have been through. To watch your industry slowly being destroyed by an exotic disease is very difficult and cruel," said Helen.

Helen worked with the Queensland Government at the State Coordination Centre for the response to white spot for over four months in the role of Industry Liaison Officer, where she was required to communicate with the media, give evidence or prepare written submissions, negotiate financial assistance packages for affected farms and keep the industry informed.

"Farmers are proud of what they do. I would not like to see any industry have to go through a similar experience. That's why biosecurity is so important and being prepared for emergency animal disease outbreaks is crucial," said Helen.

In July 2017, Helen joined AHA as the new Aquatic Biosecurity Liaison Officer based in northern Australia. She believes that taking part in the program, and overcoming the challenge of crisis management has given her the strength to take on new and challenging roles where she can continue to utilize her experiences and skills to assist other aquatic sectors to be better prepared.

"Taking part in this program has helped me to understand myself. It's not often leaders get a chance to take themselves out of the work environment and be put through a series of challenges where you have time to think about new experiences," said Helen.

"I have graduated from this program but I feel that my leadership journey is only just starting. I believe I am now a more intuitive leader who is able to navigate complex situations with various people, organisations and communities across regional Australia. I will be able to use these skills for the rest of my life in any capacity and situation."



Helen Jenkins being presented with her certificate of completion by Chair of the ARLP Board Mr Michael Carroll.

Banana growers recognised in biosecurity awards

The winners of the inaugural Farm Biosecurity Producer of The Year Award, part of the Australian Biosecurity Awards, are Mackay Farming Group from Tully, Queensland, and Rum Jungle Organics, from Batchelor in the Northern Territory.

The Farm Biosecurity Producer of the Year Award was established by AHA, PHA and the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources to recognise the contribution of producers who demonstrate outstanding, proactive on-farm biosecurity practices.

AHA's CEO, Kathleen Plowman, said producers are key to managing endemic diseases, pests and weeds every day, and are crucial in detecting and containing exotic disease and pest threats.

"It's great to see producers who are proactive about biosecurity, using simple yet effective methods to prevent or limit the

impact that pests and diseases can have on the health of crops and livestock."

PHA's Executive Director and CEO, Greg Fraser, added that the award is the only one of its type, recognising the work producers do in safeguarding our country's excellent biosecurity record.

"These producers found themselves caught up in two separate outbreaks of significant diseases of bananas. They know from first-hand experience what it's like being involved in an eradication or containment response."



AHA/PHA Farm Biosecurity Project team

"They both deserve to be recognised for their commitment to biosecurity and personal resilience in the face of very trying experiences."

The 2018 Australian Biosecurity Awards were presented at a gala dinner, part of the ABARES Outlook Conference in Canberra in March 2018.

For more information about the winners visit www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/banana-growers-recognised-in-biosecurity-awards.

Be 'appy'! Biosecurity planning at your fingertips

AHA/PHA Farm Biosecurity Project team

It's always a pleasure to receive positive feedback on the FarmBiosecurity app, which has reached over 4,000 producers since it was launched in November 2016.

One such producer is Melinee Leather, an organic beef producer from central Queensland. She also chairs the Animal Health, Welfare & Biosecurity Committee within CCA.

The good news is Melinee loves our FarmBiosecurity app!

We asked her to tell us what she enjoyed about the app and the first response was just what we like to hear: it's free, it's easy to use, it works without mobile service and it does everything she needs.

"It's a convenient way to store and update individual biosecurity plans for each of our properties," Melinee explained.

The ability to use your device to attach photos to your plan was also a big selling point.

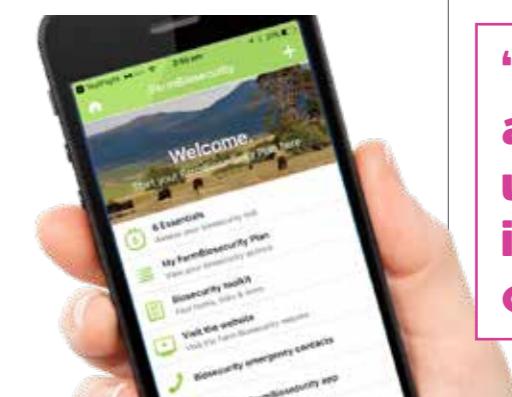
"I can add photos and notes with my iPhone when I am out and about in the paddock, ensuring our plans stay relevant and up-to-date. It's useful even when I'm working in areas with no mobile service."

Melinee also appreciated the amount of information that is available in the app.

"Emergency contact numbers, useful links, information, checklists and documents are all readily available in my toolkit."

"Basically everything I need is just a click away."

For farmers looking to create a plan in order to meet biosecurity requirements for J-BAS or LPA, the FarmBiosecurity app can help identify high risk areas and provide recommended actions. It will also allow you to attach your own



Melinee Leather
Organic beef producer, central Queensland

photos and notes or create your own action list, enabling you to keep a comprehensive record of your activities.

"The FarmBiosecurity app is always useful during audits to demonstrate our on-farm management and monitoring of biosecurity," Melinee explained.

"Apps such as this underpin the integrity of our systems."

You can download the app from the iOS App Store or the Google Play Store. You can find more information on the farm biosecurity website at www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/farmbiosecurity-app.

"Apps such as this underpin the integrity of our systems."

The results are in on the Farm Biosecurity Project Producer Survey!

AHA Communications team

A survey of Australian producers has provided some interesting insights into farmers' attitudes towards on-farm biosecurity.

The Farm Biosecurity Project, a joint initiative between AHA and PHA, conducted the survey in the first half of 2017 to determine producers' level of biosecurity awareness, their current biosecurity practices, their monitoring and recording habits and preferred method for the delivery of information.

Importantly, knowledge about on-farm biosecurity and awareness about the Farm Biosecurity Project are increasing, said Dr Simon Humphrys, AHA's Executive Manager, Biosecurity and Product Integrity Services.

"It's great to see that since the Farm Biosecurity Project first conducted this survey in 2010, producers have a stronger understanding of what biosecurity involves and that more farmers are monitoring their crops and

livestock for diseases," said Dr Humphrys.

"We're also seeing some interesting changes to how producers approach biosecurity. For example, the survey revealed that producers now increasingly source biosecurity information from industry bodies and groups.

"This type of information is very useful for us to know, so that we can continue to distribute the right information via the right channel. While the survey findings overall reveal that we're heading in the right direction, there is still room for improvement," said Dr Humphrys.

"The next step for us is to use these results to guide the future strategic direction of the Farm Biosecurity Project so that we can continue to raise awareness about biosecurity and encourage



Dr Simon Humphrys,
AHA's Executive
Manager Biosecurity
and Product Integrity
Services

producers to implement on-farm biosecurity measures."

Some of the key findings from the survey can be viewed on the following page. Please note that the information contained in this summary is a guide only. Please contact info@farmbiosecurity.com.au if you wish to verify or use any data in this summary.

"Importantly, knowledge about on-farm biosecurity and awareness about the Farm Biosecurity Project are increasing."

Key survey results

56%

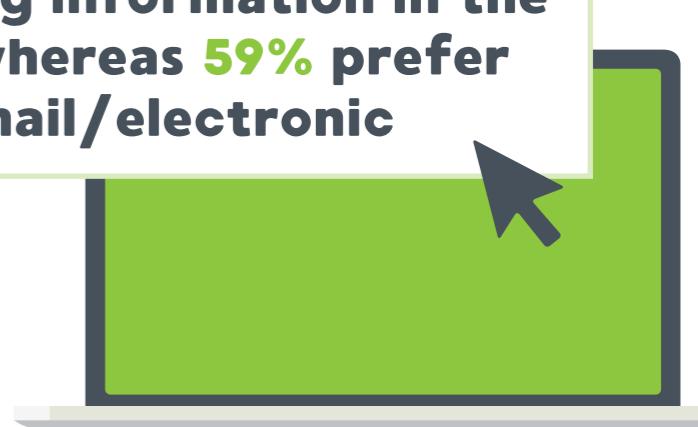
of producers correctly think biosecurity means 'controlling diseases, pests and weeds'

25.5%

of producers get their information from industry bodies/groups

44%

of producers kept records of monitoring crops/livestock for pests/diseases





Meet Cattle Council of Australia's 2017 Rising Champion!

AHA Communications team

Each year, CCA supports the NAB Agribusiness Rising Champion initiative, a program that offers young beef producers the opportunity to network with key beef industry leaders and develop their own professional and interpersonal skills.

From hundreds of applications, seven state and territory finalists are selected before a final national winner is announced. In 2017, the winner of the Rising Champion competition was Kylie Stretton and it comes as no surprise – the initiative aims to inspire, empower and support young people who are passionate about Australia's beef industry and Kylie definitely fits that bill!

Owner and manager of Charters Towers livestock agency, Northern Livestock Service, Kylie produces beef and free-range eggs on her property 'Clancella Downs'. Keeping busy, Kylie is also the co-founder of the 'Ask an Aussie

Farmer' community on Facebook, an initiative to develop closer connections between farmers and consumers.

In 2014, Kylie was named as one of Emerald Grains and Fairfax Media's 100 most influential women in agriculture, and a finalist in the 2015 AgriFutures Rural Women's Award. Kylie's main focusses within the beef industry lie with consumer understanding and collaboration within industry.

We caught up with Kylie to hear her thoughts on the Rising Champion initiative, the future of the cattle industry and what makes a good leader.

WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO ACHIEVE AS THE WINNER OF THE 2017 RISING CHAMPION INITIATIVE?

I'm really looking forward to learning about not just CCA, but a whole range of organisations that represent the industry. I'm hoping to learn more about the internal structures of the grass fed beef industry and how others work, both here in Australia and overseas.

I'm also excited that I have the opportunity to meet a whole

range of people and hopefully learn a lot from them. I also hope that I can continue to contribute positively and do the youth of the beef industry proud when I represent them on the world stage at the International Beef Alliance Conference.

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO GET INVOLVED IN THE CATTLE INDUSTRY?

I actually really love working in the natural environment. I have always been fascinated by different species of grass, trees, birds and animals. My dad is a bit of an old bushie and takes note of what's happening around him and my mum has always encouraged us to delve deeper into why things happen, so I think that's given me a good grounding into doing something like farming. I love being the same with my kids, except I'm really glad now that we have Google and social media where I can ask questions of so many people! Growing up on a cattle station near Charters Towers, it made sense to raise beef as it's the perfect way to combine the things I love; it helps my husband also loves cattle!

We both enjoy pushing the conventional boundaries with our farming methods and thinking outside the box because we both get bored with routine! We're not happy to do things a certain way just because they've always been done that way, which is why we've introduced pasture raised eggs into our operation at 'Clancella Downs', a first for our region! I think farming keeps my mind active as there's always so much to learn and no two days are the same.

We're so proud of our little farm. We've really looked outside the

"We've really looked outside the box and have this little place punching well above its weight in terms of production, but we've also been very mindful about natural resource management."

box and have this place punching well above its weight in terms of production, but we've also been very mindful about natural resource management. Our diversity of species in plants and animals has absolutely boomed here since we bought the place five years ago, despite being in severe drought for that time.

WHAT DO YOU THINK WILL BE SOME OF THE KEY FOCUS AREAS FOR THE CATTLE INDUSTRY IN FUTURE?

My personal opinion is that the two biggest issues we are facing is leadership within our industry (such as peak industry body effectiveness, policy decisions and collaboration) and public relations (between farmer-consumer, industry body-farmer and government-constituents). I think if we focus on those two issues that a lot of the others will fall into place or be easier to deal with.

WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT VALUES TO DEMONSTRATE AS A LEADER?

I feel being open and fair minded is probably a big one. You need to be able to not just listen, but take on board what people are saying (and especially hear what they're not saying). I think

you need to be willing to stick your neck out yourself - you're not always going to be popular, but someone needs to take the first step. You need to be able to encourage and support those around you because you're only as strong as the people you lead. Some of the best leaders I know invest a lot of time and effort

building capacity in those around them.

WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE LOOKING TO PROGRESS IN THE AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY?

1. Just have a crack! You might not start with the big farm, or the dream job, but just keep plugging away and you never know where you'll end up. Seven years ago, my husband Shane and I had hardly anything but we dared to dream, we worked hard, we stuck our necks out and now we're slowly getting there.
2. Don't give up! I applied for Rising Champion five times before last year. The 2017 competition was my last chance before I was "too old".

Pick yourself up, dust yourself off and try again.

3. Surround yourself with positive people from all walks of life. Listen to them, lean on them and ask for their advice. I've found that both in my advocacy and business that good people really want to help and support others that are trying to build a good business or have positive impacts on their community. Plenty of people will try and knock you down - take their criticism on board and use it for self-reflection, but don't let it kill your flame.
4. Ask questions, thousands of them.

*All photos to be credited to Vicki Miller Photography.

Follow Kylie on Facebook and Instagram at @ClancellaDowns

"You need to be able to encourage and support those around you because you're only as strong as the people you lead."



Biosecurity boost through strengthened LPA program

Australia's world leading red meat integrity system has been enhanced through significant upgrades to the LPA program, including the introduction of biosecurity requirements.

The voluntary on-farm assurance program is designed to ensure the Australian red meat and livestock industry maintains its global reputation – and market access – as a leader in food safety, integrity and traceability.

The upgrades, which were launched on 1 October 2017, also included the introduction of animal welfare requirements, an online assessment to ensure producers understand their responsibilities, and an accreditation fee of \$60 (plus GST) payable every three years. New online learning modules support producer understanding of program requirements.

To meet the new biosecurity requirements, LPA-accredited producers are required to have in

place a farm biosecurity plan and implement effective biosecurity practices on-farm. Where reasonable and practical, they must keep records of livestock movements, as well as vehicle and visitor movements. Biosecurity practices are auditable and form a part of the accreditation assessment process.

Don Mackay, Red Meat Advisory Council Chair said biosecurity is a key competitive advantage for Australian red meat producers.

"Most livestock producers understand the benefits of robust on-farm biosecurity practices to their individual businesses, and also to the future productivity and sustainability of the industry both domestically and globally," Mr Mackay said.

"The integration of biosecurity requirements into the LPA program highlights the significance of completing a thorough farm biosecurity plan."

The ISC, a wholly owned subsidiary of MLA, delivers the program on behalf of the red meat industry. Its CEO, Dr Jane Weatherley, said producers had



been proactive in understanding and embracing the changes to the LPA program.

"The changes enhance the integrity of Australia's \$23 billion red meat industry and ensure our reputation and market access is protected, strengthening our promise to consumers and keeping us one step ahead of our competitors," said Dr Weatherley.

More than 18,000 producers have renewed their LPA accreditation since the requirements came into effect.

"It's encouraging to know that producers have taken the time to understand their responsibilities, do the online learning modules and complete the accreditation process."

More than 5,500 producers have also attended workshops across Australia to learn about the changes to LPA, and in particular the introduction of biosecurity requirements for cattle, sheep and goats.

"Attending the workshops gave producers the opportunity to



ask questions about the new biosecurity requirements and understand from a practical perspective what they need to do on-farm," said Howard Smith, President of CCA.

LPA-accredited mixed farmer Andrew Bell says the Sheepmeat Council of Australia* workshop he attended in Horsham, Victoria in mid-October helped him understand the new requirements. At the workshop, he and more than 100 other producers, worked through how to create a biosecurity plan for their farms.

"A lot of it is common sense. Going to the workshop was a valuable exercise and has helped me formulate a farm biosecurity plan," Mr Bell said.

"Undertaking a biosecurity plan will make producers think about

the importance of record keeping and how they would react if there were a biosecurity breach.

"If we can show we're cleaner, greener and more transparent, it will be a lot easier to sell our products."

ISC has created an LPA On-Farm Biosecurity Plan template, to support producers to meet the new biosecurity requirements. The template was mailed to all LPA-accredited producers and is available online. The template requires the property details and on-farm risk map. It asks producers about their current on-farm practices, outlines recommended practices, and lists relevant tools and resources.

ISC encourages property owners to regularly refer to their plan, and review it at least annually.

More than 5,500 producers have also attended workshops across Australia to learn about the changes to LPA...

In addition to the farm biosecurity plan template, ISC has prepared other resources to guide producers through the biosecurity requirements. These include a biosecurity fact sheet, a short video, a guidebook covering all program requirements, and a dedicated biosecurity module in LPA Learning.

To download the resources, visit www.mla.com.au/integrity (see 'tools and resources')

For information on the LPA changes, visit www.mla.com.au/LPACHANGES

For LPA Learning, visit www.mla.com.au/lpalearning

For more biosecurity tips visit www.farmbiosecurity.com.au

*The Sheepmeat Council of Australia are known as Sheep Producers of Australia as of November 2017.

AgForce and NAB team-up to better value our natural assets

AgForce Queensland and NAB

Queensland's peak body for broadacre primary producers has joined forces with Australia's largest agribusiness bank to drive improved land management practices that can assist both the agricultural and financial industries.

Against the backdrop of Beef Australia 2018 in early May, AgForce and NAB signed a historic Memorandum of Understanding to collaborate and share resources to deliver positive economic and environmental outcomes for agriculture while also reducing financial risk.

AgForce CEO Michael Guerin said 'natural capital' assets were elements such as our land, soil, water and air that directly or indirectly provide value and are the building blocks of food and fibre production.

"AgForce is looking to put a dollar value on our natural capital and how we manage these resources

through on-the-ground actions," he said.

"We're looking to demonstrate how primary producers are looking after the environment sustainably for current and future generations, while also allowing financial risk to be better priced.

"It's about reclaiming our green credentials and showcasing that farmers are the true environmentalists, and that natural capital is worth preserving.

"Through this partnership, AgForce and NAB will look in detail at how land management practices backed by data can assist both the agricultural and financial industries.

"The partnership is something unique for Queensland and given time will expand with other collaborators to all states and territories.

"...showcasing that farmers are the true environmentalists, and that natural capital is worth preserving."

"AgForce is determined to lead the way in building collaborative opportunities that provide direct environmental and economic benefits to producers."

NAB Executive General Manager Specialised Banking, Julie Rynski, said NAB was delighted to be collaborating with AgForce to better understand the value of our natural capital and drive rural land management practices that deliver good economic and environmental outcomes.

"NAB recognises increasing pressure on the natural capital that underpins our economic system could impact future asset and business value," Ms Rynski said.

"Natural value is part of our journey towards understanding natural capital risks, opportunities and integrating natural capital considerations into our day-

to-day decision making and risk assessment processes.

"We need to manage our natural capital with the same diligence that we manage our financial capital. This means accounting for the availability of clean water, investing in biodiversity and putting a value on soil conservation."

Mr Guerin and Ms Rynski said the two organisations would now work together on key economic and practical metrics to help identify sustainably managed land and improve the financial sector's understanding of agricultural risk linked to natural capital.



James Bentley (middle), Manager of Natural Value, Corporate Responsibility at NAB presenting at the Sustainability in the Supply Chain and how Australian Beef fits into the Global Supply Chain forum at Beef Week 2018.

No more kidding around with welfare

Ensuring the best welfare for your goats can help maintain market access and enhance productivity, which is why all goat producers should check out the new *Australian Industry Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Goats*.



Download a copy online at www.animalwelfarestandards.net.au/goat or email publications@animalhealthaustralia.com.au for a hard copy.

animalhealth
AUSTRALIA

GICA
Goat Industry Council of Australia

One Biosecurity – the future starts now

A new voluntary biosecurity program, designed to provide greater market credibility and welfare outcomes, less vulnerability to uncontrolled disease spread, better disease reporting and improved traceability will soon be launched in South Australia (SA).

Designed by a Joint Industry-Biosecurity SA working group, the first release of the program, titled One Biosecurity is due to be launched mid-2018. It will target cattle and sheep industries to help SA producers better manage, protect and promote SA's strong biosecurity regime across its livestock industry.

Agents and prospective buyers could also use the portal to search for sellers of a specific class of animal with a specified biosecurity status.

Dr Roger Paskin
Chief Veterinary Officer, South Australia

Producers know that the best way to protect the biosecurity of a farm is by controlling what comes onto the farm, said Dr Roger Paskin, SA's Chief Veterinary Officer. "One Biosecurity is designed on the concept that buying decisions are crucial, therefore buyers need to make a pre-purchase assessment of stock on sale based on information from the seller. With One Biosecurity, the seller makes a declaration about two key issues: the level of sophistication of biosecurity measures in place on-farm, and the health status of the animals for sale," said Dr Paskin.

Before the creation of the One Biosecurity system, Biosecurity SA conducted a number of studies to ensure the viability of the proposed system. An attitudinal survey showed that approximately two-thirds of producers were in

favour of the system. On-farm trials were then conducted across 19 farms in a number of different systems to ensure the concept was flexible enough across a wide range of situations. Feedback from the producers involved was that the system and its documentation is simple, understandable and easy to implement.

Central to One Biosecurity is the ability for producers to register, manage, check and declare their farm biosecurity status online.

"Once registered, producers create an online profile containing details of their farming enterprises and biosecurity practices and status. Producers can choose to make their profiles public for other registered users to view. It will also enable them to quickly generate a government and industry endorsed biosecurity plan for their property. This can be downloaded and used not only for One Biosecurity, but for other programs that require a farm biosecurity plan, in particular the LPA scheme," said Dr Paskin.

The system is designed to bring about a greater level of transparency in the livestock

ONE BIOSECURITY IS COMING.



#1Biosecurity
pir.sa.gov.au/1biosecurity



trade, and linked to this, a greater level of biosecurity risk management. The portal is mobile-friendly, meaning that a producer attending a livestock sale, for example, will be able to ascertain the biosecurity credentials of a seller on location in the saleyard.

The online software uses a simple scoring system which generates two important factors: the Farm Biosecurity Rating (one to five stars) and, should the producer so choose, a Farm Disease Risk Rating for a series of selected diseases.

Thus the biosecurity rating status is a score based on actual on-farm practices. Diseases currently available for which the producer may wish to record a status are JD (cattle and sheep), pestivirus (cattle), sheep lice and ovine footrot. A range of options are possible for each disease from "not currently classified" to "independently assessed" (low risk).

Agents and prospective buyers could also use the portal to search for sellers of a specific

class of animal with a specified biosecurity status. The portal thus creates a connection between potential vendors and purchasers.

Biosecurity SA will be responsible for carrying out assessments – both online and through farm visits – ensuring the credibility of One Biosecurity.

Work on the One Biosecurity portal is almost completed. Producers from around the state and across sectors have participated in the user trial, with their feedback and user-experience helping to finalise the new program before it opens for registration.

For more information visit www.pir.sa.gov.au/1biosecurity.

Australian Alpaca Spectacular

AAA National Age & Colour Championships

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www.australianalpacaspectacular.com.au

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Have you registered your pigs?

AHA Communications team

Whether you're a pig producer or simply keep a pet pig, you need to make sure your pig is registered with PigPass, Australia's system to record all pig movements.

Mandatory reporting of all pig movements through PigPass was introduced by the state and territory governments in February 2018.

Deb Kerr, Australian Pork Limited (APL) General Manager, Policy said mandatory reporting was an important step in ensuring the industry was prepared for an emergency animal disease outbreak.

"The move to bring in mandatory reporting for pigs helps to give a clear picture of all movements, allowing authorities to quickly determine the source of a disease outbreak and notify all pig owners in the affected area to protect animals and stop the spread of disease," said Ms Kerr.

PigPass will bring the industry in line with other livestock industries, such as cattle and sheep, who can be tracked through the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS).

PigPass links pigs to their property of origin by using a Property Identification Code, registered pig identification (ear tags or tattoos) and PigPass movement documentation.

The importance for producers to ensure they are using PigPass is



Deb Kerr,
APL's General
Manager, Policy

tied to the consequences that a disease outbreak, such as FMD could have on the Australian economy, reducing the gross domestic profit by up to \$50 billion over ten years.

"PigPass and the NLIS system have the capacity to reduce the social and financial impact of a disease epidemic through improved identification and traceability capability," said Ms Kerr.

"Australia's pork industry identification and trace-back capabilities are designed to ensure the industry maintains and develops an effective traceability system in the most cost effective way."

For more information and to register with the PigPass system visit <https://pigpass.australianpork.com.au/faq>.

"PigPass and the NLIS system have the capacity to reduce the social and financial impact of a disease epidemic..."



I PIG **20 PIGS** **PET PIG** **XMAS PIG**

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GETTING STARTED WITH PIGPASS

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- PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION CODE
- TATTOO NUMBER
- ABN (IF APPLICABLE)
- VISIT PIGPASS.COM.AU

UNDERSTANDING THE PIGPASS SYSTEM

When moving pigs, the owner completes a new national vendor declaration (NVD) slip

- The pig owner keeps the pink carbon copy
- And hands the top two copies (white and green) to the transporter

The transporter completes the relevant section and should keep the green copy and give the top (white) copy to the receiver

The receiver of the pig(s) goes online to www.pigpass.com.au to 'close the loop' by entering the PigPass NVD serial number and required information

VISIT WWW.PIGPASS.COM.AU OR CALL 1800 001 458 FOR MORE INFORMATION



All-paca your information in one place!

AHA Communications team

Managing your alpaca herd has never been easier with the introduction of eAlpaca, a new online platform from the Australian Alpaca Association (AAA).

With a simple user interface, the online registry and show system allows users to manage several different aspects of their alpaca business, said Fiona Vanderbeek, AAA's Vice-President.

"Users can easily update their personal account details, register animals for breeding, view the International Alpaca Registry and complete all steps of an animal

"Users can easily update their personal account details, register animals for breeding, view the International Alpaca Registry and complete all steps of an animal transfer electronically."

transfer electronically," said Ms Vanderbeek.

"Producers can also enter their animals in the nationwide network of AAA alpaca shows, access an in-breeding calculator, and have the ability to connect with other members."

The system was developed to address feedback from AAA's members in 2013. Over the next four years, AAA sought advice from specialists such as show conveners, vets and the Q-Alpaca registrar, as well as AAA staff and members to create a system that was suitable for a large variety of producers, from hobbyists to commercial farmers.

The eAlpaca platform officially launched in November 2017 and has been well-received by

Fiona Vanderbeek,
AAA's
Vice-President



producers since it went live.

"In the first two weeks of the system becoming active, about a third of our membership had already logged into the system," said Ms Vanderbeek.

"The response from members has been very positive, which is fantastic. We'll continue to listen to our members to improve the system further."

The latest updates to the platform include the ability to set up leases, manage agisted animals and order registration ear tags; soon to come will be the ability for electronic communication between producers and their vets, further reducing the need for paperwork and streamlining animal health and biosecurity procedures.

You must be an AAA member to access all the features of the eAlpaca system, but you can set up a guest account free of charge to explore key aspects. To set up a guest account, or to find out more about AAA membership, go to www.ealpaca.com.au. For general information on the alpaca industry go to www.alpaca.asn.au.

Feedback

"I am not really computer-savvy but I found eAlpaca intuitive, fast and so very easy to use, congratulations!"

Feedback

"It's fantastic... the AAA should be commended for taking this progressive direction."

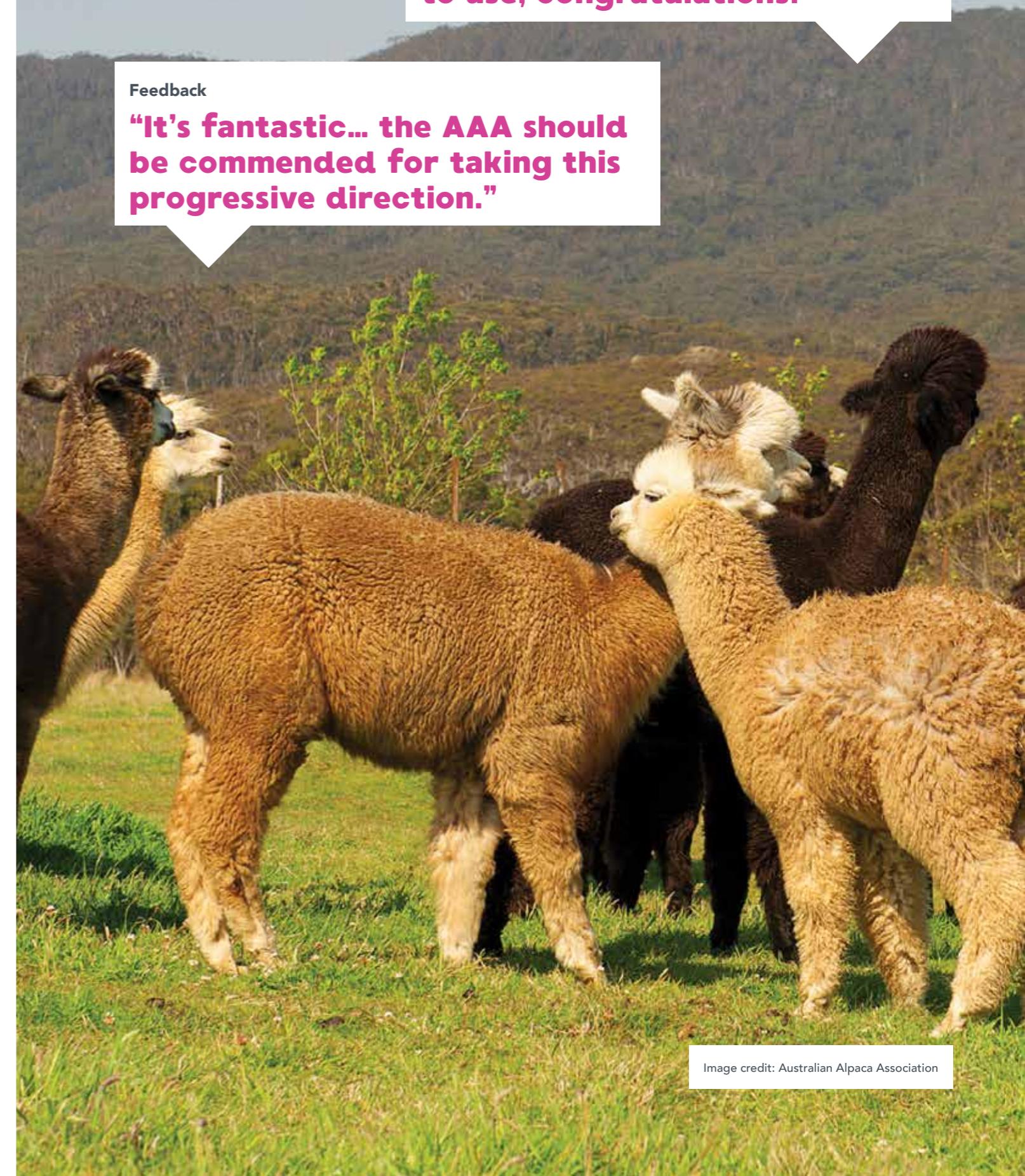


Image credit: Australian Alpaca Association

Surveillance strengthened across northern Australia

The Australian, state and territory governments in collaboration with industry are partnering to deliver the Northern Australian Biosecurity Surveillance (NABS) project which will improve the quality and accessibility of significant disease investigation in livestock in northern Australia.

People who conduct surveillance activities in the north, such as veterinarians and livestock producers, can experience vast challenges in conducting disease

investigations. The NABS project, which began in January 2017 and runs until June 2019, will make this task easier by providing them with tools and resources to assist.

Pastoral properties and veterinarians will be supplied with post-mortem (PM) sampling kits to be used to collect samples from livestock. The kits will also enable property staff to collect maggots from fly-blown wounds. To ensure their efficacy, producers will need to use the kits under direction from their veterinarian, and it is recommended they are kept in an easily accessible location.

As part of the initiative, Biosecurity Queensland held two emergency animal disease workshops in mid 2017 for private veterinary practitioners in northern

“A NABS Significant Disease Investigation Network was launched in early 2018 to assist private and government veterinarians to join forces on disease investigations in northern Australia.”

Elizabeth Stedman
Veterinary Officer – Darwin Region, Department of Primary Industry and Resources Northern Territory

Queensland, about the disease investigation tools and resources. Biosecurity Queensland are also keeping PM kits in their regional offices to provide to producers and veterinarians when they visit properties and local sale yards.

A NABS Significant Disease Investigation Network (SDI) was launched in early 2018 to assist private and government veterinarians to join forces on disease investigations in northern Australia. The SDI Network includes opportunities for vets and diagnosticians to share knowledge and approaches, conduct more complete case work-ups, collaborate on laboratory submissions and better share information about disease events across the north.

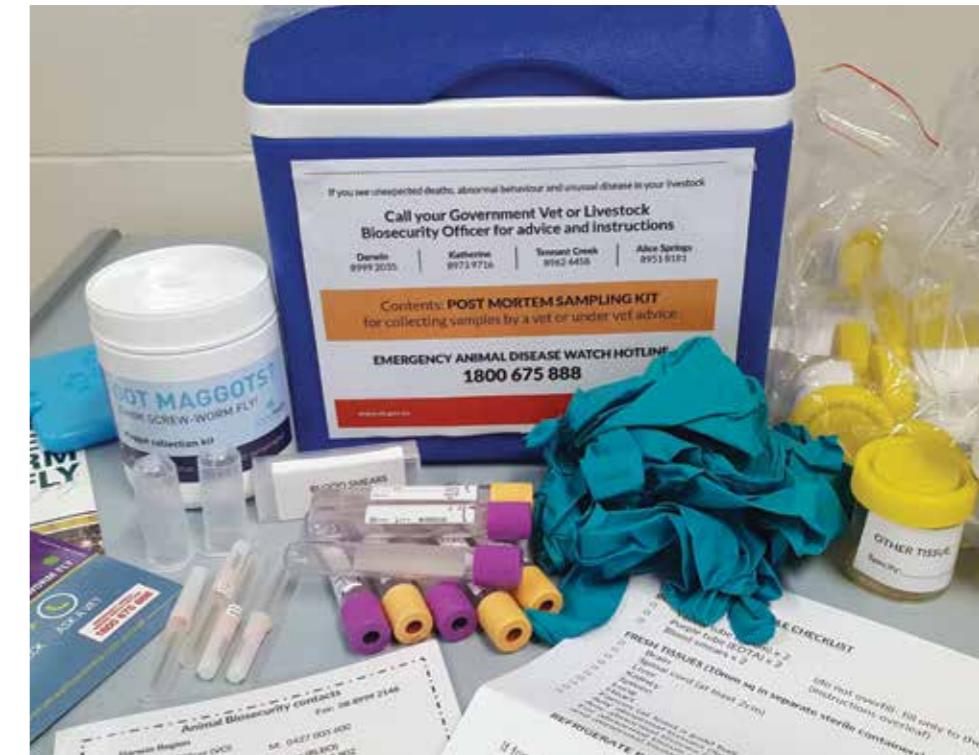
This project is a joint initiative by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, Western Australian Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Northern Territory Department of Primary Industry and Resources, and Biosecurity Queensland.

It is funded under the Australian Government's Agricultural

Competitiveness and Developing Northern Australia White Papers, the government's plans for stronger farmers, a stronger economy and a safe, secure Australia.

Further information about the NABS project is available from the following coordinators:

- WA - Marion Seymour
08 9651 0534
Marion.Seymour@dpird.wa.gov.au
- NT - Susanne Fitzpatrick
08 8999 2123
susanne.fitzpatrick@nt.gov.au
- QLD - Nina Kung
07 3087 8022
Nina.Kung@daf.qld.gov.au



An example of a post-mortem sampling kit.



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A biosecurity sign of the times

A simple sign on the farm gate has launched an education and assistance program to inform producers in the NSW Northern Tablelands on current biosecurity requirements, helping them to maximise their access to competitive markets.

Northern Tablelands Local Land Services (LLS) has reached out to its producers with a raft of support to share awareness and meet modern expectations of an ever-expanding market.

It began with an LLS-produced sign in 2015, an adaptation of the AHA design, to hang on the farm gate. The sign is a visible reminder that the producer is implementing farm biosecurity plan practices in their day-to-day operations and long-term planning, underpinning quality assurance.

"Initially we wanted to provide the signs for front gates to indicate you did have a plan, and to remind people moving machinery or animals onto the farm to consider the farm's biosecurity," said Northern Tablelands LLS District Veterinarian Dr Andrew Biddle.

The uptake was very positive, with an initial print run of 1,300 signs. As national biosecurity regulations have evolved, interest has grown again.

Since early June 2017, 1,800 people have attended and participated in Northern Tablelands LLS workshops and events where farm biosecurity plan information was shared. As a result, the Northern Tablelands LLS received over 1,500 farm biosecurity plan-specific counter enquiries and phone calls.

Northern Tablelands LLS has a team of Biosecurity Officers and District Veterinarians to support producers as they translate their traditional biosecurity planning and record-keeping into contemporary templates which meet LPA requirements for farm biosecurity plans and JD assurance schemes. These are available from the Northern Tablelands LLS website and offices.

The creation of a farm biosecurity plan supports sustainable practices and empowers producers to make informed and positive decisions.

"Biosecurity planning includes understanding the pests, diseases and plant or animal health problems that do or don't occur on a farm. For those not currently affecting the enterprise, the farm biosecurity plan can outline how to maintain this situation. For diseases that do occur in the herd or flock, the farm biosecurity plan can outline how to manage the disease," said Dr Biddle.

"Creating and implementing a comprehensive farm biosecurity plan is a blueprint to optimising

Dr Andrew Biddle,
Northern
Tablelands Local Land
Services Veterinarian



animal health, as well as complying with the requirements to have a plan.

"Anyone can sign a piece of paper, but it's the understanding and ownership of the plan they are implementing that is important."

For more information about farm biosecurity plans contact the Biosecurity Team at Northern Tablelands Local Land Services on 02 6732 8800.



District Vet Andrew Biddle, along with the Northern Tablelands LLS Biosecurity Team, distributed biosecurity farm gate signs to landholders as a tool to assist them with their farm biosecurity planning.



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Sponsorship Packages Available



Meet our members

AHA works in partnership with our members and other stakeholders to keep Australia free of new and emerging diseases and to improve animal health, strengthen biosecurity, enhance market access and foster the resilience and integrity of the Australian animal health system.

Each edition we'll introduce you to one of our 33 member organisations so you can learn a bit more about the great work they do for Australian agriculture. This issue we caught up with the Australian Lot Feeders' Association and its CEO, Christian Mulders.

Australian Lot Feeders' Association

The Australian Lot Feeders' Association (ALFA) are the peak national body for the grain fed beef industry in Australia.

ALFA has four main roles:

- To represent the cattle feedlot industry

- Direct the expenditure of the grain fed cattle transaction levy within AHA, the National Residue Survey and MLA
- Improve the industry through standards, training, events, leadership, awards, careers development and employment facilitation
- Membership services

Their mission is to lead the industry in a manner that fosters excellence and integrity; improves the feedlot business environment; and ensures its community standing.

"What I love about working with ALFA is their willingness to adapt to a changing industry landscape and their strong focus on enhancing welfare and biosecurity. This is evident in their implementation of a number of significant initiatives such as the National Feedlot Accreditation Scheme and the Feedlot Code of Practice."

- Kathleen Plowman
AHA CEO



Spotlight Christian Mulders

We had a chat with ALFA's CEO, Christian Mulders about his experiences over the years, thoughts on the industry and some of his highlights along the way.

WHAT DO YOU LOVE THE MOST ABOUT YOUR ROLE?

At a high level, being part of an association that contributes to the prosperity of Australia's red meat and livestock industry which, on so many levels, is such an important sector for Australia. On a personal level, being part of a team who are single-minded about delivering outcomes that make a difference to our members' businesses, the lives of the people who work in those businesses and the fantastic product they produce.

DO YOU HAVE ANY HIGHLIGHTS FROM ALONG THE WAY?

Throughout my career I have been involved in industry systems such as the LPA program, the NLIS, National Vendor Declarations

(NVD) and more recently the National Feedlot Accreditation Scheme – all of which underpin the integrity of our product and deliver Australian red meat's enviable reputation around the globe.

A key highlight was the development of the Meat Industry's Animal Welfare Certification System which is an independently audited animal welfare program linked to a certified trademark that enables meat processors to demonstrate their commitment to best practice. The program boasts coverage of over 80% of meat production and the trademark has been adopted commercially at retail, including by the ALDI supply chain. That's something I'm really proud of.

WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE THE INDUSTRY IS CURRENTLY FACING?

The price of red meat products at retail comparative to other proteins is certainly challenging on the domestic front; as is the growing



divide between urban and rural Australia and the relative knowledge of everyday Australians about how their food

is produced. As the world's largest exporter of beef and goat meat and second largest for sheep meat, maximising market access opportunities remains the red meat and livestock industry's number one priority.

DO YOU THINK THE INDUSTRY IS WELL POSITIONED FOR THE FUTURE?

The prosperity of the nation is linked to the prosperity of our sector. Industry, through the Red Meat Advisory Council, is investing in the *Meat Industry Strategic Plan 2020*, developed to unlock up to \$7b in growth for Australian red meat and livestock businesses. We also have in place genuine industry-government partnership platforms, dedicated to protecting Australia's great reputation and growing opportunities for those who work hard to produce the world's greatest red meat.



The red meat industry has over **75,000** businesses



who employ over **178,000** people



earning approx **\$18b** for Australia's economy

In the know

Staying one step ahead of FMD

Some of Australia's greatest research minds in the field of FMD are working on the FMD Ready project*, which aims to strengthen preparedness for an emergency animal disease outbreak and facilitate an earlier return to trade for Australia following control of such a disease, using FMD as a model.

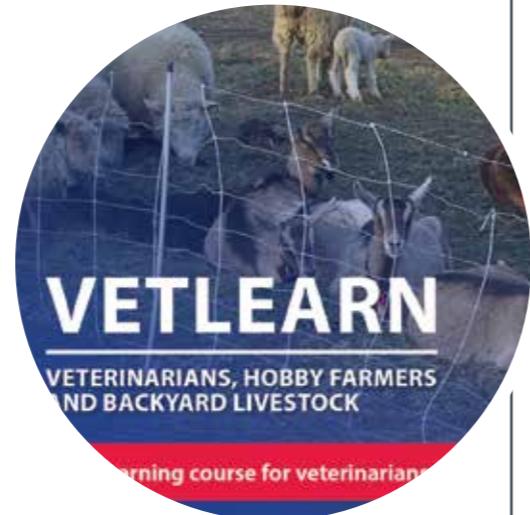
Check out <https://research.csiro.au/fmd/> for more information.



VETLEARN course for veterinarians, hobby farmers and backyard livestock

This free 2-hour online course provides veterinarians with the confidence and resources to build their business and improve engagement with hobby farmers, smallholders and clients with backyard livestock. This course is relevant to all veterinarians nationally and will earn 2 CPD or VETED points.

To register or for more information visit:
www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/greater-sydney-peri-urban.



Have your say on Australia's National Biosecurity Statement

A National Biosecurity Statement will present a common and unified approach to biosecurity for everyone involved in the biosecurity system. Share your ideas on what should be included in the statement by making a submission before 31 October 2018. For more information visit:

www.havetoursay.agriculture.gov.au/national-biosecurity-statement.

*This project is supported by Meat and Livestock Australia, through funding from the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources as part of its Rural R&D for Profit program, and by producer levies from Australian FMD-susceptible livestock (cattle, sheep, goats and pigs) industries and Charles Sturt University (CSU), leveraging significant in-kind support from the research partners. The research partners for this project are the Commonwealth Science and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), CSU through the Graham Centre for Agricultural Innovation, the Bureau of Meteorology and the Australian Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, supported by Animal Health Australia.

Want to know more about chook health?

The Australian Chicken Meat Federation has launched a blog called Chook Chat to provide information for the general public about the chicken industry and to discuss how the industry is addressing challenges facing them.

For more information visit: www.chicken.org.au/chookchat.



The Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines (S&Gs) for Saleyards and Depots have now been finalised

The S&Gs reflect the commitment of jurisdictions to a nationally consistent approach to animal welfare. They promote humane and considerate treatment of livestock handled through Australian saleyards and depots and inform all people responsible for the management of livestock about their responsibilities.

For specific information and timelines please contact your relevant state or territory government agency. For more information about the S&Gs visit: www.animalwelfarestandards.net.au/livestock-at-saleyards-and-depots.



Want to keep up-to-date with the latest animal health and farm biosecurity news?

Visit www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/subscribe and subscribe to our monthly newsletters - AHA Express and Farm Biosecurity News.

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Presented by
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PERTH Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development	17-18 Aug 2018

FULL DETAILS TO FOLLOW SOON!

To join the mailing list to receive the full conference flyer please email:
aapsadmin@animalhealthaustralia.com.au

The Animal Health in Australia 2017 report is now available!



This is the 25th edition in the *Animal Health in Australia* series – an annual summary of Australia's animal health status and system. The report highlights Australia's commitment to biosecurity and excellent reputation as a producer of safe and healthy animals and animal products. View the report at - www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/ahia

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