

# Communique



Livestock SA and SA Dairyfarmers' Association (SADA), in partnership with the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA), hosted an emergency animal disease (EAD) preparedness workshop on 4 August 2022. The workshop was an outcome of the South Australian Livestock Biosecurity Summit held in April 2022.

Livestock industry attendees of the workshop represented the beef, sheep, goat, dairy and pig industry supply chains, including producers, saleyards, processors, regulators, livestock agents and transporters.

The purpose of the meeting was to create a shared understanding and knowledge of South Australian stakeholder responsibilities during an EAD response.

The group explored several scenarios for the entry of lumpy skin disease and foot and mouth disease (FMD) into Australia. South Australia's Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO), Dr Mary Carr, provided an overview of the obligations of government and industry under the Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement (EADRA) and the key principles of disease control that are outlined in the AUSVETPLAN.

The group recognised the central role of the South Australian CVO during an outbreak, and the support that industry can provide before and during an outbreak. The meeting discussed the critical roles that industries play in decision-making at the national level – including through the National Management Group (NMG) and Consultative Committee of Emergency Animal Disease (CCEAD) – and their essential role in coordination at the state level through formal liaison and specialist industry advice functions in state and local control centres.

PIRSA epidemiologist, Dr Emma Rooke, provided information about disease spread with the meeting noting three main factors that will reduce the size and impact of an outbreak;

- early reporting of disease
- good biosecurity practices
- compliance with traceability requirements.

The pork industry shared the activities undertaken to increase industry preparedness for the threat of African swine fever (ASF), and its experiences during the recent Japanese encephalitis response.

The meeting provided an opportunity for attendees to identify and prioritise preparedness activities that could reduce the impact of a response. Key areas identified for further work included:

1. communications to improve biosecurity practices on farm, raise awareness of livestock standstill requirements and raise awareness of disease symptoms
2. contingency planning along the supply chain
3. resourcing and training people for industry roles in response
4. improving traceability
5. surveillance to ensure early detection.

The actions identified at the workshop will be developed into an EAD preparedness action plan, to guide further activities that will enhance a response in South Australia.

For further information please contact:

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