



Northern Australia Coordination Network

Enhancing preparedness for Emergency
Animal Diseases in northern Australia

Beef Connect 30/04/24



Who are we, what's our purpose?

- Government partners: Commonwealth Government, Northern Territory Government, Queensland Government, Western Australian Government
- Industry partners: AgForce, James Cook University, Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association, Kimberley Pilbara Cattlemen's Association
- Enhance biosecurity and Emergency Animal Disease (EAD) preparedness across northern Australia
- Priority focus:
 - Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)
 - Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD)



Department of
Primary Industries and
Regional Development



Queensland
Government



Australian Government



Training activities

1. Foundational EAD knowledge

- What are priority EADs?
- How do you detect and report them?
- Importance of early detection

2. Industry biosecurity response readiness training

- How EAD responses are activated
- Role of peak bodies
- Potential impacts of an EAD incident
- How industry representatives can prepare

3. Liaison-livestock Industry Training

- Delivered by AHA
- Targets livestock industry leaders
- Liaise and consult with affected jurisdictions on response management
- Contribute industry specific advice to assist operations



Communication and Engagement

- Public education and awareness
- Importance of good biosecurity behaviours
- Promotional education material



Know the signs of **Foot-and-Mouth Disease**

Call the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline and your local vet if you see any of the below signs:

- Multiple sick animals
- Lameness in multiple animals
- Blister-like sores on the mouth, nose, hooves and teats
- Nasal discharge and salivation
- Loss of appetite and depression
- Lethargic animals
- Drop in milk production.



Call Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888 and your local vet.

Name:

Phone:

Know the signs of **Lumpy Skin Disease**

Call the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline and your local vet if you see any of the below signs:

- Multiple sick animals
- Multiple skin lumps which ulcerate leaving scabs
- Swollen limbs, brisket, genitals and lymph nodes
- Discharge from eyes, nose and salivation
- Loss of appetite and depression
- Lethargic animals
- Drop in milk production.



Call Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888 and your local vet.

Name:

Phone:

NACN Key Activities

- Exercise Raintree
 - Mock LSD response exercise
 - Test preparedness and response capabilities of government and livestock associated industries
- Innovative surveillance solutions workshop
 - Identify novel solutions for EAD surveillance
- Northern Australia Industry Leaders
 - Livestock leadership network
 - Coordinated by Roger Desailly from AgForce
- NABSnet
 - Significant Disease Investigations of livestock
 - Supports trade market access



NABSnet
Northern Australia Biosecurity Surveillance network

If you suspect an EXOTIC DISEASE call 1800 675 888

Northern Australia – Risk Pathway

- Climate change
- Transboundary EADs
- Expansive and remote animal populations
- Shifts in ag production
- Remote community distribution
- Workforce pressure
- Travel and trade

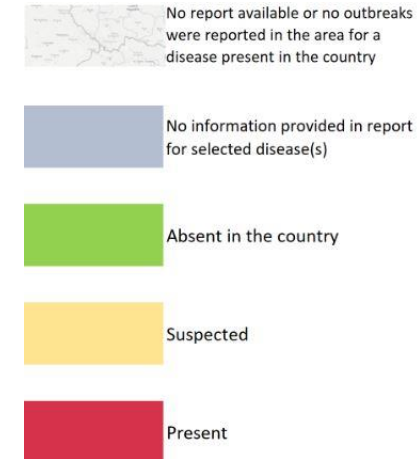
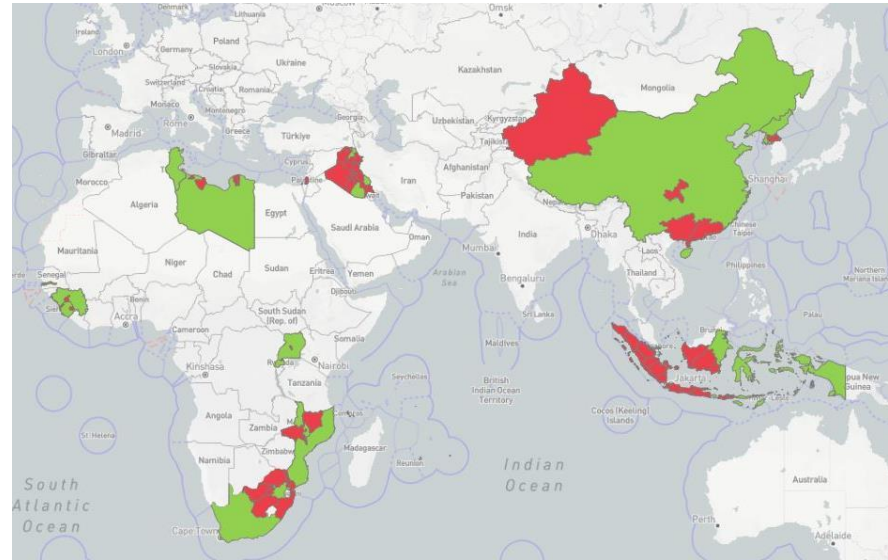


Image: FMD disease status globally, July-August 2023.
Source: World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), 4 August 2023.

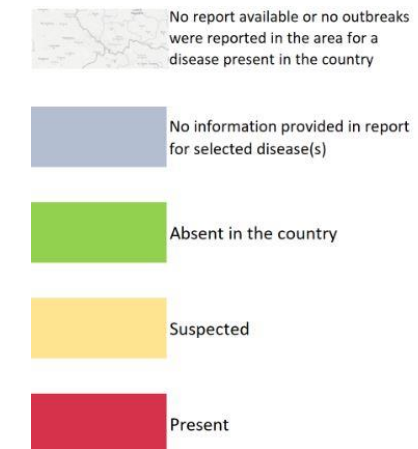
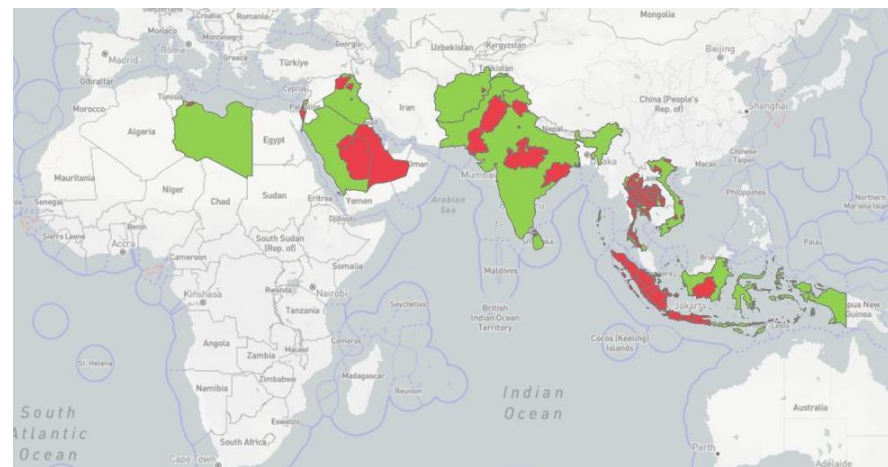


Image: LSD disease status globally, July-August 2023.
Source: World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), 4 August 2023.

Impacts



Individual producer:
Loss of livelihood



Animal welfare environmental impacts:
Domestic and wild animal populations, land pollution



Rural and regional communities:
Movement restrictions and loss of income = impacts throughout the community



Social impacts:
Mental health, social isolation, disrupted tourism, social and sporting events



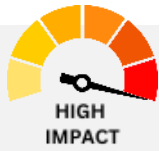
Food supply chain:
Disruption



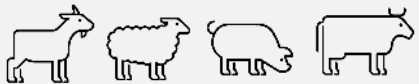
Economic impact:
Estimated direct economic impact of FMD of around \$80 billion

Top 10 threats

1 Foot-and-mouth disease



\$3.5b-\$11.1b (QLD) impact



2 Lumpy skin disease



~\$7.9b exports (AUS)



3 African swine fever



~\$40m+ (QLD) over 5 years



4 Highly pathogenic avian influenza



Impact to industry ~\$915m+ (QLD)



5 Rabies



Impact to multiple industries – globally US\$8.6b



6 African horse sickness



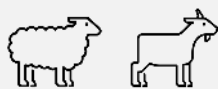
Impact to industry worth \$1.9b+ (QLD)



7 Peste des petits ruminants



Impact to industries ~\$287m+ (QLD)



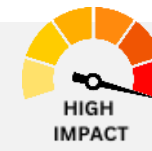
8 Classical swine fever



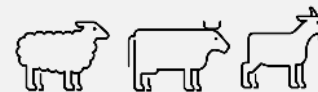
~\$63m+ (AUS)



9 Screw-worm fly



~\$900m impacts



10 Surra



Impact multiple industries including racing – \$1.9b+ (QLD)



Overview: Foot-and-mouth disease



About

A highly contagious viral infection of domestic and wild cloven-hooved animals (cattle, sheep, pigs, goats, camelids, deer, buffalo).



Spread

Capable of rapid spread to healthy animals by direct contact with infected animals or animal products, but also by wind.



Food safety

FMD does not pose a food safety issue in terms of human consumption.



Situation

Prevalent in Africa, the Middle East and Asia, as well as limited areas of South America.

Endemic in Indonesia since 2022.



Introduction

An outbreak is most likely to be caused by food contaminated with the virus being illegally imported and fed to pigs.



Travelling

Good hygiene such as clean footwear and clothing is an important biosecurity measure for people returning to Australia from countries where FMD is prevalent.

Signs: Foot-and-mouth disease

- Multiple sick/affected animals, low numbers of deaths
- Dullness, fever, reduced appetite
- Drooling
- Nasal discharge
- Reluctance to walk
- Reduced milk production
- Fluid filled blisters (vesicles):
 - Mouth, tongue, cheeks, gums, lips
 - Between the claws of the feet, above the hooves
- Clinical signs vary between species
- If you see any of the described clinical signs in multiple animals – report to a vet immediately



Sheep's dental pad with 2-day-old lesion.



Pig's snout with 2-day-old lesions.



Steer's mouth: 2-day-old lesions. Note sharp margins of lesions and appearance of exposed dermis.

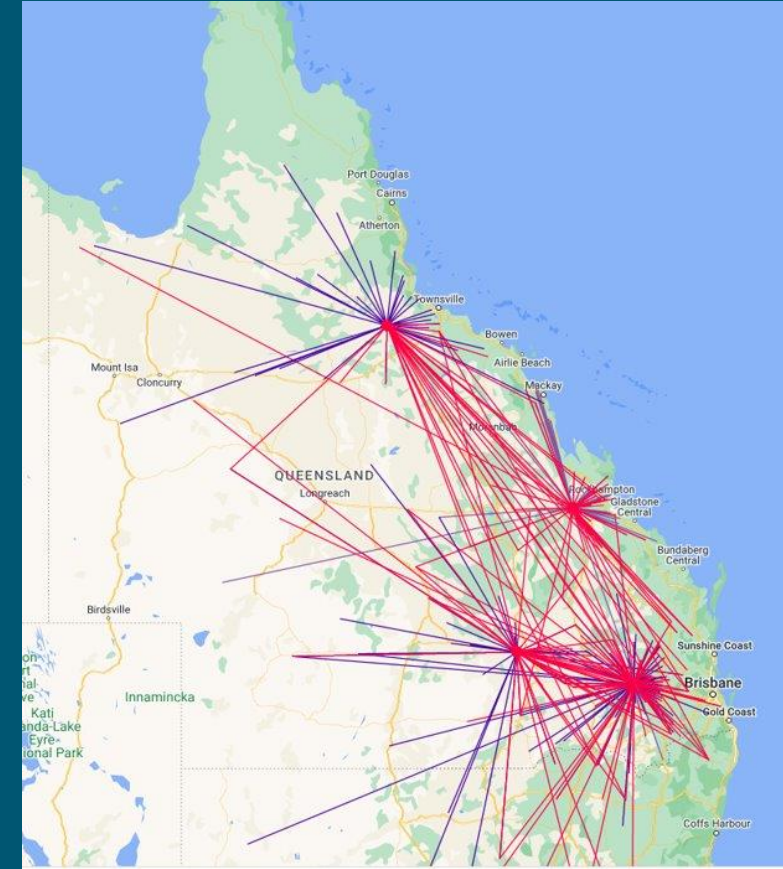


Heel bulbs of steer's foot with unruptured 2-day-old vesicles.

Source: UK DEFRA.

FMD Disease Response

- Eradication – re-establish FMD-free status
- Minimise social, animal welfare, environmental and economic impacts
- Early disease detection and reporting is paramount
- National livestock standstill



More than 15,000 cattle movements to saleyards (blue lines) and from saleyards (red lines) for Tuesday and Wednesday sales for the major selling centres in Queensland during late June 2022.

FMD Eradication

- Stamping out – destruction and disposal of infected and susceptible animals
- Vaccination may be considered
- Category 2 EAD in EADRA
 - Costs shared 80% by government
20% by industry
- Proof of freedom required for international market access with the World Trade Organisation



Parties to the Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement (EADRA)

Overview: Lumpy skin disease



About

A highly infectious viral disease of cattle, buffalo and camels, transmitted by biting insects.



Situation

Significant spread throughout Asia since 2019, including being reported in March 2022 in Singapore and Indonesia.



Introduction

LSD could be carried by wind-borne insect vectors into northern Australia.



Control

If LSD was to enter the country in remote areas of northern Australia, it may be difficult to rapidly identify and control.



Impacts

If LSD became established in Australia, economic losses would be expected due to loss of international trade market access, stock losses and reduced production.



Food safety

LSD cannot infect people and it does not pose a food safety issue in terms of human consumption.



Signs: Lumpy skin disease

- Fever and depression
- Multiple skin nodules (painful)
- Watery eyes
- Loss of appetite
- Reluctance to move
- Swelling of limbs, brisket and genitals
- Reproductive losses
- Reduced milk production
- Skin nodules:
 - 5-50mm diameter, round, raised, firm lumps
 - Head, neck, thighs, genitals, udder, limbs
- Skin lesions may persist for 4-6w
- If you see any of the described clinical signs in multiple animals – report to a vet immediately

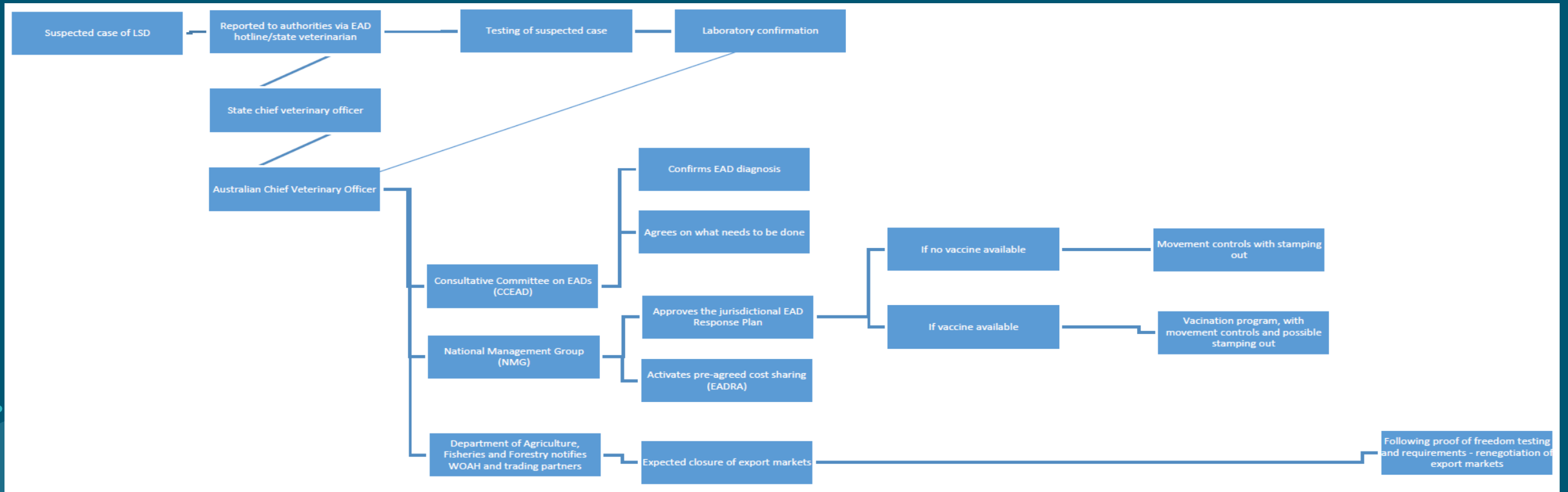


Lumpy skin disease lesions in cattle.



LSD Disease Response

- Eradication
 - Stamping out +/- vaccination
- No national livestock standstill, but strict movement controls
- Zoning/compartmentalisation
 - Resumption of market access
- Category 3 EAD in EADRA
 - Costs shared 50% by government and 50% by industry
- Proof of freedom
 - Earliest time is 14 months





EAD Response Phases

The investigation and alert phase, operational phase, proof of freedom phase and stand-down phase. Detailed information about the phases will be provided on the following pages.



NOTE: These phases are not mutually exclusive but are used to identify the activities that typically occur in each phase.

If it is determined that the EAD cannot be eradicated, a transition to ongoing management of the disease may take place.

<https://animalhealthaustralia.com.au/online-training-courses/>

Industry Biosecurity Response Readiness Training
Contact: Cameron.Durnsford@daf.qld.gov.au

National
biosecurity
arrangements



State / Territory
biosecurity
arrangements



State / Territory
emergency
management
arrangements



Have a **biosecurity
management plan**
in place.



farmbiosecurity.com.au

daf.qld.gov.au

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**Farm Biosecurity Action
Planner**

Home > **Toolkit** > Farm Biosecurity Action Planner



- Farm inputs
 - Animals, feed, water sources are all potential sources of disease
- Farm outputs
 - Animals should be disease free and fit for travelling
- People, vehicles and equipment
 - High biosecurity risk, frequent movements on/off properties
 - Cleaning, disinfection and hygiene practices important
- Production practices
 - Regular monitoring of livestock health status helps with early detection and reporting of disease
- Ferals & weeds
 - Limit contact with wild animals that are potential sources of disease
- Train, plan & record
 - Implement regular training and awareness for staff
 - Plan for potential scenarios that could impact how you operate
 - Detailed record keeping helps protect your industry

VISITORS

A BIOSECURITY MANAGEMENT PLAN APPLIES TO THIS PLACE

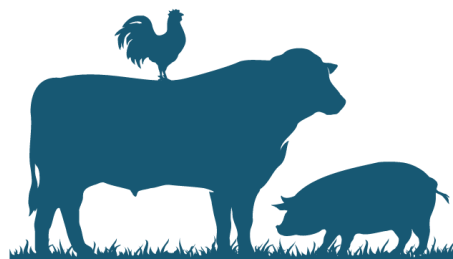
This is a management area for the Biosecurity Management Plan that applies to this place.

It is an offence for a person entering, present at, or leaving a management area to fail to comply with the measures stated in the Biosecurity Management Plan for the area unless the person has a reasonable excuse.

Please contact us or visit our office before entering to obtain information about the Biosecurity Management Plan and your biosecurity obligations
Vehicles, people and equipment can carry diseases, weed seeds and pests.

Phone / UHF channel: _____

Protect your livestock and your livelihood



Ensure **livestock movements** are accurately recorded on the **NLIS database** and the movement is reflected accurately on the **movement record** (waybill).



nlis.com.au





Report

suspect cases to the
**Emergency Animal
Disease Hotline** on
1800 675 888
immediately.



Remain alert, not
alarmed

Help keep
Australia free of
Emergency Animal
Diseases