

MEDIA RELEASE

2 July 2018

Zoonosis Awareness Week is back again!

Throughout this week Animal Health Australia (AHA) will be running Zoonosis Awareness Week, promoting awareness of diseases that pose a risk to people working in rural areas or in close proximity to livestock and other animals.

“Zoonotic diseases are those which can pass from animals to people and vice versa – and a number of these, such as Q-Fever, are endemic to Australia,” says Dr Simon Humphrys, Executive Manager Biosecurity and Product Integrity.

“Zoonotic disease is a real risk to agricultural workers and it can have long term consequences – for your physical and mental health and even your business.”

AHA’s Zoonosis Awareness Week will run from 2-6 July to coincide with World Zoonosis Day on Friday 6 July. During the week AHA will be posting daily on our social media pages to help raise awareness of zoonotic disease prevention, symptoms, treatment and research. Get involved – using our hashtag #BeZoonosisAware – and join the conversation by sharing our posts or contributing your own.

“We also encourage you to take the time to bring up the topic with friends, family and employees that live or work around livestock” says Dr Humphrys.

“Information can help prevent the spread of these diseases and may even save someone’s life. Let’s all work together and get the information out there to the people that need it – the more people that get involved, the more people we can reach.”

Where possible, it is important to take precautions to reduce the risk. This can be through general knowledge of the risks, vaccination of livestock for known zoonotic diseases or vaccination for people in the industry (for example the Q-Fever vaccine).

Follow us on social media and keep an eye on our posts next week for more information – @AnimalHealthAustralia on Facebook and @AHA_au on Twitter.

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About Animal Health Australia

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