animalhealth AUSTRALIA

CATTLE PRODUCERS WANTED

HELP SUPPORT AUSTRALIA'S MARKET ACCESS

Cattle producers are needed to support Australia's National Arbovirus Monitoring Program (NAMP)[1]. NAMP monitors the distribution of economically important insect-borne viruses (arboviruses) of ruminant livestock (cattle, sheep, goats and camelids), and their associated insect vectors within Australia.

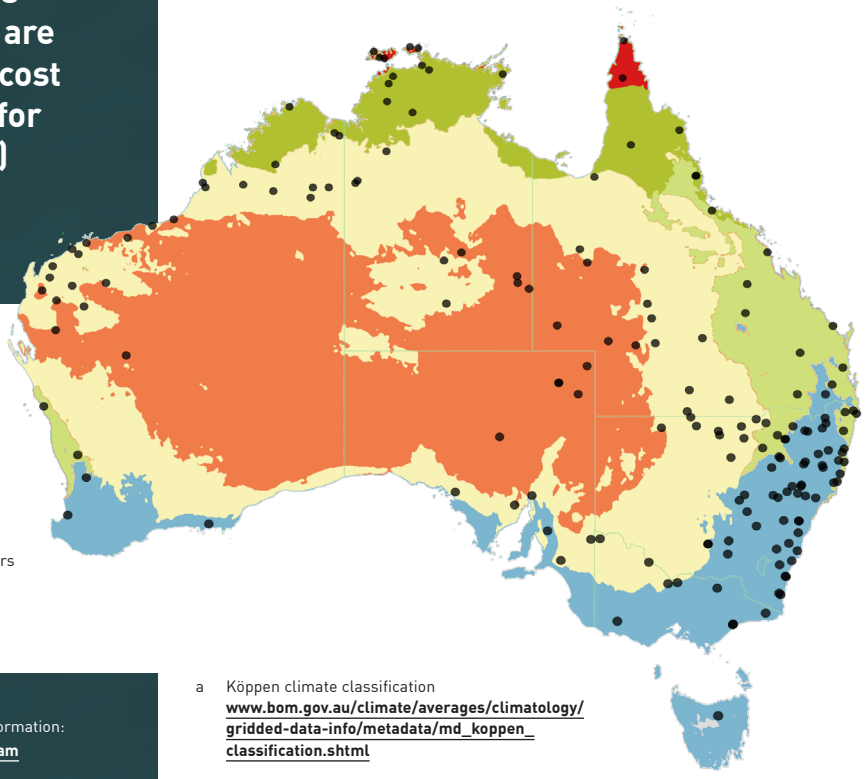
Only a small amount of your time is required each year and incentives are provided to contribute toward the cost of mustering and handling cattle (for sentinel sampling across the year) and setting insect traps.

Why monitor for arboviruses?

Export opportunities for ruminant livestock and their reproductive material (semen and embryos) depend on mutual confidence between Australia and its trading partners that our animal health status is accurately assessed, and disease risks are properly managed.

Many importing countries apply conditions on ruminants being exported from Australia in relation to specific arboviruses: bluetongue, Akabane and bovine ephemeral fever viruses. NAMP provides credible information on the nature and distribution of these specific arboviruses in Australia.

In addition, NAMP identifies incursions of new bluetongue viruses or midges and enables livestock producers and traders to make informed decisions to manage risks of disease.



General location of National Arbovirus Monitoring Program monitoring sites (virology and entomology). These sites are subject to change on a year-to-year basis.

- NAMP monitoring site
- Temperate
- Grassland
- Desert[a]
- Equatorial
- Sub-tropical
- Tropical
- State borders

1 Visit the National Arbovirus Monitoring Program webpage for more information: **animalhealthaustralia.com.au/national-arbovirus-monitoring-program**

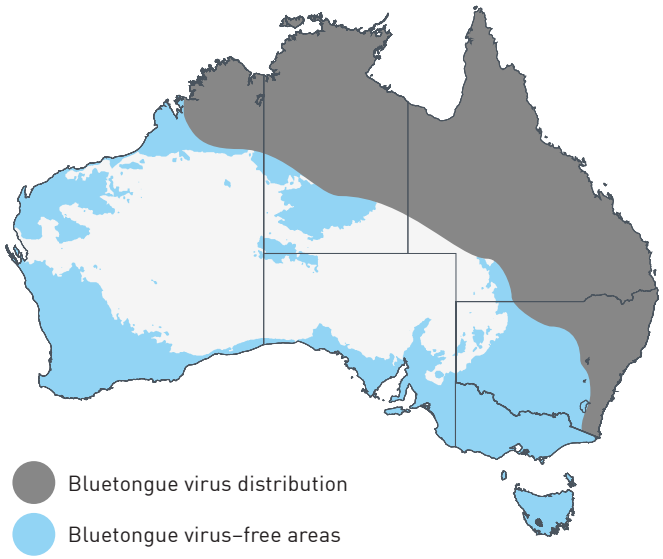
a Köppen climate classification **www.bom.gov.au/climate/averages/climatology/gridded-data-info/metadata/md_koppen_classification.shtml**

Credit: Lawrence Gavey

How does the NAMP operate?

NAMP gathers information at monitoring sites across Australia by testing of blood samples from cattle herds and insect trapping for biting midges.

Results of monitoring are used to develop the Bluetongue Virus Zone Map, and to inform officials and industries on the distribution of arboviruses and vectors.



Distribution of bluetongue virus in Australia, Sep 2023 – Aug 2024.

What is involved in being a NAMP collaborator?

NAMP is wholly dependent upon collaboration with cattle producers.

Known as NAMP 'collaborators', participating cattle producers provide 10–30 young home-bred cattle for blood sampling by government officers. Sampling occurs on agreed dates and can slot in with routine activities where cattle are handled on the property.

Some collaborators also set an insect trap during agreed months throughout the year. The traps are automatic and will run for several nights and collaborators send the collected insects to the relevant government officer.

What impact might involvement have for me?

NAMP collaborators contribute to export market access by enabling monitoring of the current zone of bluetongue virus transmission. NAMP surveillance has no impact on domestic markets and sale of cattle. The zone boundaries can shift each season. In some seasons, the zone may retract or expand, which may temporarily open or close access to some export markets for producers, including NAMP properties, in that region. Bluetongue detection by NAMP sentinel herds maintains and strengthens the mutual confidence between Australia and its trading partners.


Victoria NAMP trap at dawn. Credit: Berwyn Squire

How do I get involved?

If you would like more information about the NAMP or are a cattle producer who would like to be a NAMP collaborator, please scan the QR code below for your state/territory coordinator or contact Animal Health Australia at aha@animalhealthaustralia.com.au or phone (02) 6232 5522.

NAMP is jointly funded by the cattle, sheep and goat industries; the livestock export industry; and the state, territory and Australian governments.

Visit Website