ANIMAL HEALTH SURVEILLANCE QUARTERLY

Newsletter of Australia's National Animal Health Information System

Volume 1 **Issue 1**

Quarterly Report for 1 January to 31 March 1996

Preface

This is the first edition of the *Animal Health Surveillance Quarterly* (AHSQ), the quarterly report of Australia's National Animal Health Information System (NAHIS).

This report summarises the findings of disease surveillance and monitoring activities reported to the NAHIS for the period 1 January to 31 March 1996. Summary data are collated from a variety of sources, including State Departments of Agriculture, the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS), the National Arbovirus Monitoring Program, the National Residue Survey, the Commonwealth Department of Family Services and Health, the Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy and various national reference laboratories. Only summary data are recorded in NAHIS, with detailed data being maintained by the source organisation.

AHSQ will be published quarterly, by the middle of the quarter following the reporting period. The data included in this report are accurate at the time of publication. However, because of the short reporting and production time, minor discrepancies may occur.

Each issue of AHSQ will include a special review article on a topic of current interest, highlights of disease surveillance activities, items of interest from the States and Territories, and a summary of data from the NAHIS for the relevant quarter.

Future issues of AHSQ will be available on the internet through a NAHIS world wide web site that is currently under development.

Data included in this report were collected and collated by the Bureau of Resource Sciences, for the Australian Animal Health Council. For further information on any item in this report contact the person listed, the relevant State or Territory coordinator, or the NAHIS coordinator at the Bureau of Resource Sciences. A full list of contact names and details is included on the last page of this report.

Contact: Graeme Garner, Bureau of Resource Sciences.

REVIEW ARTICLE:

Australian Animal Health Council

The management of animal health issues in Australia is undergoing fundamental change with the formation of the Australian Animal Health Council (AAHC). The AAHC is a non-profit company limited by guarantee, established under Australian corporations law and accountable to the Australian Securities Commission. Its shareholders are the Commonwealth and State/Territory Ministers with agricultural responsibilities as well as the Presidents of the Australian Veterinary Association and the eight peak national commodity councils of Australia's livestock industries.

The AAHC has been established to give a higher profile to and broaden the input base for animal health planning in Australia. It will be the peak

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animal health body — the point of reference for strategic policy development, for national program funding and for animal health matters that require negotiation and resolution. The AAHC will also monitor the standards of animal health service provision in Australia.

The Board of Directors of the inaugural Council were announced by the Commonwealth Minister for Primary Industries in October 1995. Persons selected were:

Chairperson, Dr Alan Donald, an outstanding research scientist in animal health and former senior executive with CSIRO, now a company director and scientific consultant;

Mr John Stewart, a cattle producer and consultant in pastoral management with a detailed understanding of the administration of animal health programs;

Dr Jakob Malmo, a private veterinary practitioner, beef and dairy producer, and former President of the Australian Veterinary Association;

Dr Brian Fisher, Executive Director of the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics (ABARE);

Ms Keryl Enright, Chairperson of the Western Australian Agricultural Protection Board, Chairperson of the Western Australian Ministerial Advisory Committee on the Brucellosis and Tuberculosis Eradication Campaign, and a producer of Merino sheep, cereal grains and beef;

Dr Paul Higgins, President of the Pork Council of Australia; and

Mr Mike Madigan, Chief Executive of the South Australian Department of Primary Industries, and a member of the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Resource Management (SCARM).

A guide to the future role of the AAHC can be found in its mission, which is to ensure the Australian animal health service system is capable of maintaining acceptable animal health standards that meet consumer needs and support market demands at home and in our export markets.

The objectives of the AAHC are to:

- provide strategic leadership in the identification of national priorities and the development of national policy for Australia's animal health system;
- ensure that the performance of the national animal health system meets market and commercial requirements; and
- ensure international confidence in the capability of Australia's animal health services.

The Council's Chief Executive Officer is Mr Paul Crew. Over the past nine years, Paul has held Chief Executive Officer positions in NSW as Director of NSW Fisheries and in Tasmania as Director of Sea Fisheries. Paul's skills and experience in strategic leadership and successful negotiation between government and industry will be of great value to the Council.

The Business Manager is Mr Stephen Penhall. Stephen has been employed by the Grains Research and Development Corporation as Manager, Business and Finance. Stephen's breadth of experience in rural industry and skills in financial and business management will ensure efficiency and accountability in the operations of the Council. He will also be able to deputise for the Chief Executive across the Council's responsibilities.

With the appointment of its staff, the Council will be formulating its first three-year strategic plan during May 1996, building on the framework of the three broad directions for policy development already decided, namely:

- a national framework for animal health services;
- animal disease preparedness; and
- endemic disease management.

To this end, the Council has already taken over responsibility for the management of the NAHIS, with Dr Chris Baldock as the part-time NAHIS Program Manager.

The Council is also setting up three Task Groups to develop policy and programs. Each of the Task Groups will have a membership of five to six people drawn from the member organisations and industries of the Council. Task Group members will have expertise in national and international market access, trade issues affecting livestock and livestock products, State and Territory Government animal health policy and management, the livestock industries and private veterinary services. They will work to a set of defined terms of reference and be asked to report within periods of three to six months.

The first of these, Animal Health Services, will evaluate Australia's animal health services and make recommendations for change, with emphasis on market access requirements. It will compare essential services requirements with the present state of animal health services in Australia and those of our trading partners and international competitors.

The second, Animal Disease Preparedness, will undertake a short-term task to define the immediate priorities and recommend allocation of an existing budget for continuing exotic animal disease preparedness following the winding up of the Exotic Animal Disease Preparedness Council. It will also recommend ways to extend the existing contingency plans for the handling of exotic animal disease to other animal health-related crises or emergencies.

The third Task Group, Endemic Disease Management, will set priorities for endemic animal disease problems in Australia from a market perspective. It will also recommend the development of specific national programs, with early emphasis on the approach that should be taken to bovine and ovine Johne's disease.

Among the priority endemic diseases, a national approach to the management of Johne's disease in cattle is already well advanced through the National Johne's Disease Market Assurance Program, which is to be launched in May 1996.

Task Group Convenors have now been appointed, and the Groups will conduct their investigations over the next few months. Convenors are:

Animal Health Services: Dr Lex Carroll

Animal Disease Preparedness: Dr Mike Carroll

Endemic Disease Management: Dr Kevin Dunn

Johne's Disease sub-Task Group: Dr Robin Condron

There is no doubt that 1996 will be an interesting and busy year for the new AAHC, which will need the support of all those with an interest in animal health and the future of Australia's animal industries. The AAHC will play a pivotal role in ensuring a place for Australia's animal industries in the future.

Contact: Paul Crew, AAHC

QUARTERLY HIGHLIGHTS

Japanese encephalitis update

Following the diagnosis of Japanese encephalitis (JE) in the Torres Strait in early 1995, a sentinel pig scheme was established to provide surveillance for viral activity during the 1996 season. On three outer islands (Badu, Saibai and Erub), a total of 78 pigs were selected, identified and blood-sampled at the end of January, 1996. These pigs were to be bled monthly throughout the wet season.

Seven of the 78 pigs were found to be positive at the initial test, 3 from maternal antibody and 4 because they were older than previously thought and had been exposed during the 1995 outbreak. These pigs were excluded from further testing. At the second bleed in mid-March, 12 of 13 pigs on Saibai had seroconverted, while there were no seroconversions on the other islands. Saibai is within a few kilometres of the Papua New Guinea coast. Pigs tested on the inner island of Kiriri and on the tip of Cape York Peninsula also remained seronegative.

Testing is continuing at the remaining seronegative locations, and pigs from Yam Island in the middle of Torres Strait have been included to replace the sentinels on Saibai.

Reference: Shield, J., Hanna, J. and Phillips, D. (1996). Reappearance of the Japanese Encephalitis virus in the Torres Strait, 1996. *Communicable Diseases Intelligence*, 20:191

New South Wales

Equine disease surveillance

The deaths of three Thoroughbred weaners from acute respiratory disease at a large stud near Wellington over a two-week period were investigated. Histopathology and serology proved negative for infection with equine morbillivirus (EMV). The possibility of EMV was also considered in the case of sudden death of a horse in the Maitland district. Whitewood poisoning was suspected as the cause of death, and exclusion testing for EMV was negative.

Tuberculosis eradication

Following an abattoir traceback in December 1995, a Bourke herd was completely destocked after tuberculin testing confirmed tuberculosis (TB) was present. TB lesions were found in 84 of 202 (42%) animals autopsied. The tuberculin skin test detected 82% of animals confirmed as infected. Of 124 animals examined that were tested negative, 15 (12%) were found to have lesions. It is believed that TB may have spread within the herd from a single infected animal that escaped detection at previous TB testing in the 1970s. All neighbouring herds have now been tested, with no TB detected. Traceback of cattle movements has not found any further cases, other than in other cattle sold at the same time as the original traceback animals.

Bovine ephemeral fever

Widespread, severe bovine ephemeral fever **(**BEF) and pink-eye have accompanied a wet season with significant insect burdens on northern coastal areas. BEF was also suspected on clinical grounds in many herds in the New England (79 reports to the end of February), the Hunter Valley, the northern and central plains, and to a lesser extent in southern NSW. There have been very few reports of mortalities in these outbreaks.

Neosporosis

The protozoal disease neosporosis remains a significant threat to reproductive performance, particularly in dairies. A review of diagnoses of protozoal abortion at Wollongbar Regional Veterinary Laboratory found the disease was common in the north coast area of NSW (Table 1). Between 1993 and 1995, 69% of cases were diagnosed in herds where three or more cows had aborted in the previous two months.

Contact: Greg Curran, NSW Agriculture

Table 1: Protozoal abortions diagnosed in north coastal NSW

Year	Dairy	Beef	Total
1993	22	8	30
1994	21	7	28
1995	8	4	12
Total	51	19	70

Northern Territory

Tuberculosis Breakdown

During the quarter, an outbreak of TB was detected in a buffalo herd near Darwin. Four index cases in old buffalo cows were found by abattoir inspection. The herd originated from buffalo sourced from areas with TB-infected feral animals in the early 1980s. Before this episode, the last TB in the herd was in 1986. Testing to Confirmed Free 2 (CF2) status was completed in 1990. A program of destocking, TB-testing and traceforward (some animals had moved to Victoria and NSW) has been instituted for the herd and other implicated animals.

Bee diseases

Chalkbrood was detected in a hive in the Darwin region. There was no evidence of chalkbrood, American foulbrood or European foulbrood in honey samples submitted in the previous quarter from a survey of the Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs regions.

Contact: Diana Pinch, NT DPIF

Queensland

Cattle

Clinical BEF has been reported extensively in Queensland this quarter following widespread rain in January.

In the central highlands, the unusual summer season has resulted in an increased incidence of acute and chronic cyanide toxicity associated with the consumption of stressed grain and forage sorghum crops. Acute poisoning tended to occur in drought-affected areas where cattle were put into blade ploughed country which was being restocked. Chronic poisoning with typical incoordination, ataxia and dribbling of urine was also seen. Some properties with more advanced cases had animals in lateral recumbency.

Pigs

Melioidosis was detected at slaughter in three pigs from three separate herds. One herd was located on the Atherton Tableland and the remaining two were in the Burnett River catchment. These cases followed heavy rain, which increases the risk of infection in humans and animals.

Johne's disease in alpacas

Johne's disease (JD) was confirmed by positive culture from a mesenteric lymph node and the ileocaecal valve of an alpaca on a property about 100 km north of Brisbane. This detection followed traceback investigations from a confirmed case in another alpaca in August 1995. Both affected alpacas moved from the same property in Victoria to Queensland in June 1994, on the same truck. The August case was in a two-year old animal that was showing clinical signs. This animal was autopsied and culture and histolopathology results confirmed the presence of *Mycobacterium paratuberculosis*. A testing program has commenced on both affected properties.

Tuberculosis

A confirmed case of TB was detected from a property with 1300 breeders in the Inglewood Shire of southern Queensland. *Mycobacterium bovis* was cultured at Oonoonba Regional Veterinary Laboratory from the retropharyngeal lymph node of an aged cow slaughtered at Killarney meatworks on 23 February 1996. The lesion was submitted as part of the National Granuloma Submission Program. It appears most likely that the cow was originally purchased through Roma saleyards in 1993–94. Positive identification of the original property of origin was not possible. Traceback investigations are continuing.

Contact: Peter Black, Queensland DPI

South Australia

Tuberculosis

During the quarter one local cow was detected with bovine TB under the National Granuloma Submission Program. The herd of origin was tested using the gamma interferon test, which found five animals positive for bovine TB and 11 positive for avian TB. The herd was depopulated and all animals were inspected at slaughter. No lesions were found in any animals.

Enzootic bovine leucosis

The seventh round of quarterly bulk milk tests for EBL was conducted during the quarter. A total of 73 positive herds have been identified, from 788 herds tested. No new positive herds were detected and a number of previously positive herds that have culled test positive animals had a negative test.

Contact: Kim Critchley, Primary Industries SA.

Tasmania

Suspected exotic disease

On 25 January 1996, two pigs from a Scottsdale property were submitted by the owner to the Mt. Pleasant Regional Veterinary Laboratory. Lesions found at autopsy were suggestive of classical swine fever and samples submitted to the Australian Animal Health Laboratory (AAHL) for exclusion testing were negative. The cause of death was confirmed as chronic oedema disease.

Enzootic bovine leucosis

A single EBL reactor was detected in February. It was found during follow-up testing after a previous EBL reactor had been removed from the same herd. Both reactors were imported but had had no contact with each other. The second reactor came from an infected herd, but had been isolated on two other properties and tested several times with negative results before coming to Tasmania.

Contact: John Elliott, DPIF, Tasmania

Victoria

Enzootic bovine leucosis

In Victoria, industry and government are undertaking a program to control EBL in the State's dairy herds with the aim of eliminating the disease by the year 2000. The program is based on milk testing all dairy herds twice each season. Herds positive on this test are encouraged to undertake individual testing of all cattle more than six months old to eliminate infection from the herd. The latest round tested 7807 herds, of which 162 (2.1%) were either positive or inconclusive on bulk milk testing.

Approved private veterinary practitioners have been provided with training and are engaged under contract with Agriculture Victoria to undertake herd testing and provide veterinary advice on the control of EBL.

Exotic disease investigation — suspected vesicular stomatitis

In February, Agriculture Victoria veterinarians inspected a mob of about 100 horses after the owner reported that some had unusual mouth lesions. The investigation revealed that the horses had dramatic gum and tongue lesions that ranged from linear scratches to deep ulcerations. The horses had been grazing a stubble paddock and only those horses on the stubble paddock were affected. Laboratory testing confirmed the field diagnosis of mechanical injury to the gums and tongue, leading to secondary bacterial infection.

Contact: John Galvin, Agriculture Victoria

Western Australia

Johne's disease surveillance

Western Australia is considered one of the few regions of the world that is free of JD. However, new international guidelines require evidence of freedom. Consequently, cattle herds and goat flocks that had introduced livestock from eastern Australia in the previous five years were visited and sampled. Testing was aimed at imported animals and up to 100 in-contact peers from more than 140 herds and flocks. As expected, a number of cattle gave a 'suspicious' reaction to the enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA), but none has proven positive to follow-up testing using faecal culture and further ELISAs several months later. These animals will continue to be monitored and tested for up to two years. Western Australia is now preparing a case for regional freedom from JD.

Good progress in footrot eradication

Footrot eradication in WA appears to have turned the corner. The latest statistics show quarantines are the lowest for six years and farmers were more successful in eradicating footrot than in previous years. In addition, there were fewer new detections of footrot last summer.

In January 1996, 109 properties were in quarantine compared with 216 for January 1994 and 177 for January 1995. Last year 65% of farmers who attempted 'summer eradication' were successful, compared to 35% in 1992–93 and 52% in 1993–94.

Shellfish diseases

Three potentially serious shellfish diseases were diagnosed during routine testing during the quarter. The intracellular protozoan parasite *Bonamia* was found in flat oysters from Albany. *Bonamia* is a serious oyster pathogen and was responsible for almost completely destroying the flat oyster farming industry in Europe and the dredge oyster fishery in New Zealand.

Lesions and intracellular parasites resembling *Mikrocytos* were detected during routine testing of rock oysters from Albany. *Mikrocytos* causes 'winter mortality' in Sydney rock oysters from NSW. A *Mikrocytos*-like organism was also found in rock oysters from Carnarvon, and tests are being conducted to determine if the two organisms are the same. *Mikrocytos*, a close relative of *Bonamia*, was first found in a single juvenile pearl oyster from Carnarvon in 1992, suggesting that infected rock oysters may also have been present at this time. This has now been confirmed.

Haplosporidium sp. was found in a batch of juvenile pearl oysters. A similar haplosporidian was found in hatchery animals several years ago and the batch was destroyed. This is the first record of a haplosporidian parasite of pearl oysters in the wild. Haplosporidians have caused serious mortalities in oysters overseas but the significance of this parasite to the pearl industry is unknown.

New laboratory at Albany

Agriculture WA's new regional office in Albany, incorporating the Albany Regional Veterinary Laboratory, is now finished. Work commenced on the $9 m complex in June 1994 and staff moved into their new accommodation in February 1996.

The new facilities incorporate all of the current functions of the present laboratories. The design will improve work efficiencies and vastly upgrade biosecurity. The building has a distinctly Australian character and is located at the town entrance on Albany Highway adjacent to the College of Technical and Further Education.

Contact: Richard Norris, Agriculture WA

QUARTERLY STATISTICAL RETURNS

Disease surveillance reports

Tuberculosis

During the quarter, monitoring for TB continued under the National Granuloma Submission Program, with 764 granulomas submitted and two cases of TB detected — one in Queensland and one in South Australia. Summary results from the program are presented in Table 2. One TB-infected buffalo herd was also detected by abattoir inspection in the Northern Territory. More detailed information on these breakdowns is provided in the individual State reports.

Table 2: Results of the National Granuloma Submission Program, 1 January to 31 March 1996.

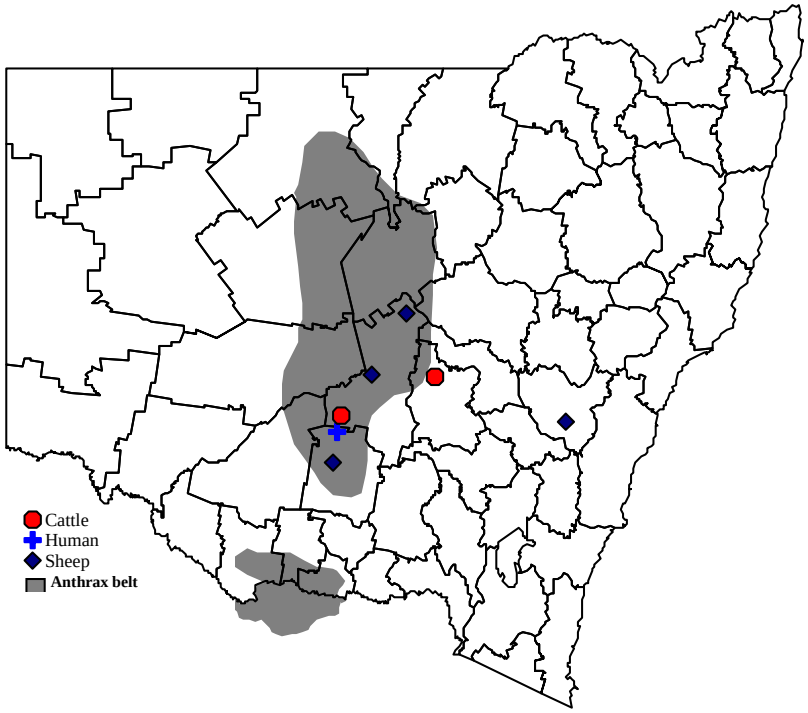
Diagnosis	Submissions	(%)
Tuberculosis	2	(0.3)
Actinobacillosis/ actinomycosis	474	(62.0)
Mixed infection	16	(2.1)
No diagnosis/not available yet	27	(3.5)
Rhodococcus spp	62	(8.1)
Tumour	52	(6.8)
Fungal	7	(0.9)
Parasitic	24	(3.1)
Miscellaneous	100	(13.1)
Total	764	(100.0)

Anthrax

Six outbreaks of anthrax were confirmed in stock during the quarter — four in sheep and two in cattle. All outbreaks occurred in NSW (see Map 1).

Although not a notifiable disease in New South Wales, one case of human anthrax was confirmed from the Rankins Springs area of southern NSW. This area is within the recognised 'anthrax belt', but investigation failed to locate associated cases in animals.

Map 1: Anthrax cases in new South Wales, 1 January to 31 March 1996



Arboviruses

Table 3 summarises the results of all arbovirus serological testing for the quarter by State. NSW, Northern Territory and Queensland all had positive results for Akabane, BEF and bluetongue viruses. Western Australia also had positives for Akabane and BEF. Figures 1, 2 and 3 compare this quarter's results with previous quarterly averages, and Table 4 shows the distribution of bluetongue testing and results for the quarter by species.

Table 3: Arbovirus monitoring, 1 January to 31 March 1996

State	Bluetongue		Akabane		Bovine ephemeral fever	
	+ve(%)	tested	+ve(%)	tested	+ve(%)	tested
NSW	18 (1.1)	1673	7 (9.3)	75	45 (11)	428
NT	181 (37)	483	337 (61)	549	321 (55)	584
Qld	62 (2.1)	2944	31 (15)	203	164 (47)	350
SA	0	200	0	67	0	31
Tas.	0	10	0	9	0	0
Vic.	0	155	0	0	0	119
WA	0	37	6 (6.5)	92	8 (5.3)	150
Total	261 (4.7)	5502	381 (38)	995	538 (32)	1662

Figure 1: Akabane testing, comparison of current and past quarters

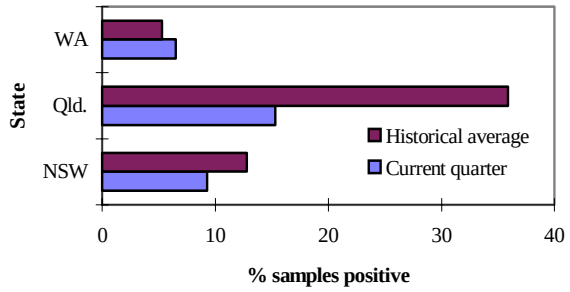


Figure 2: Bluetongue testing, comparison of current and past quarters

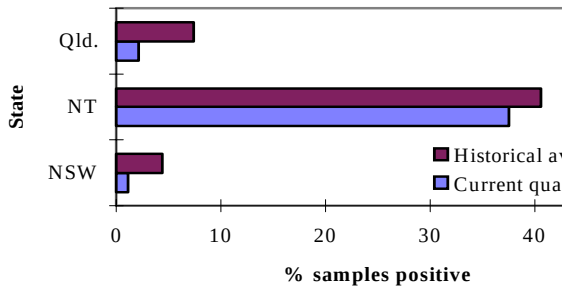


Figure 3: Bovine ephemeral fever testing, comparison of current and past quarters

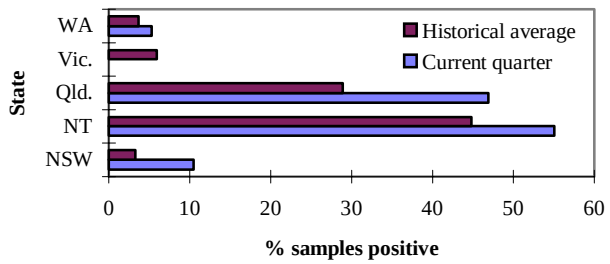


Table 4: Bluetongue serology results by species, 1 January to 31 March 1996.

Species	Positive		Tested
	Number	(%)	Number
Cattle	250	(6.0)	4144
Buffalo	4	(10.8)	37
Goats	0		7
Deer	7	(0.6)	1160
Sheep	0		149
Others	0		5

Zoonoses

A summary of zoonotic diseases notifications during the quarter is shown in Table 5. Q fever is generally the most common zoonotic disease, except in Victoria. Trends in notifications for the three most common zoonoses (Q fever, leptospirosis and ornithosis) over the past five years are shown in Figure 4.

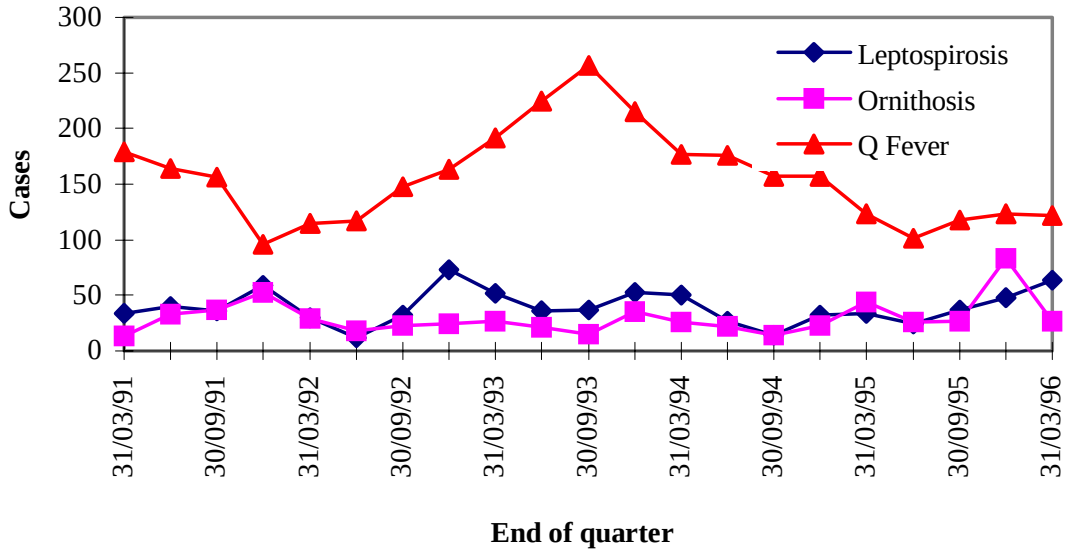
Contact: Communicable Diseases Intelligence, Department of Family Services and Health

Table 5. Notifications of zoonotic disease, 1 January to 31 March 1996.

Disease	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas.	Vic.	WA	Total
Brucellosis	0	0	0	7	0	0	2	0	9
Hydatidosis	0	5	0	2	0	1	3	0	11
Leptospirosis	0	9	0	23	0	3	27	2	64
Listeriosis	1	2	0	3	1	0	9	0	16
Ornithosis	0	0	0	5	0	1	21	0	27
Q fever	0	63	0	51	0	0	7	1	122

Source: Communicable Diseases Network Australia and New Zealand - National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System .

Figure 4: Occurrence of selected zoonotic diseases by quarter



Bovine brucellosis

Australia has been free of bovine brucellosis since 1989, with the last breakdown recorded in 1991. Serological monitoring of cattle at abattoirs continued until the end of 1994. Since 1995, monitoring has relied on serological testing carried out either as part of abortion investigations, or for a variety of other reasons. During the quarter 1,463 samples were tested for *Brucella abortus* across Australia, with no positives detected. Of these, 47 were tested as part of abortion investigations, and 1416 were tested for other reasons.

Enzootic bovine leucosis

Enzootic bovine leucosis (EBL) Accreditation programs have been operating in the dairy industries in Queensland and NSW for several years. In NSW, about 5% of herds are of Tested Negative status or better, and 68% are bulk milk test (BMT) Negative or Monitored Negative. In Queensland, 76% of participating dairy herds have a status of Tested Negative or better, with a further 8.5% being Provisionally Clear. There are less than 10 factory supply herds not participating in the program in Queensland.

Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania have all started a program of bulk milk testing for all dairy herds. At their last test 98%, 92% and 100% of herds were BMT Negative for each State respectively.

Johne's disease

In Australia, JD is seen primarily in dairy cattle. It occurs occasionally in beef cattle, sheep and dairy goats, and in 1993 was diagnosed in a small number of alpacas. The disease is notifiable and subject to compulsory government controls, including quarantine and movement restrictions.

JD occurs mainly in Victoria, Tasmania and NSW. Victoria has a large number of infected herds, mainly dairy. NSW, Tasmania and South Australia also have a number of known infected herds. Surveillance programs in Queensland, Western Australia and the Northern Territory support the view that these States are free of JD, and active measures are taken to stamp-out any incursions.

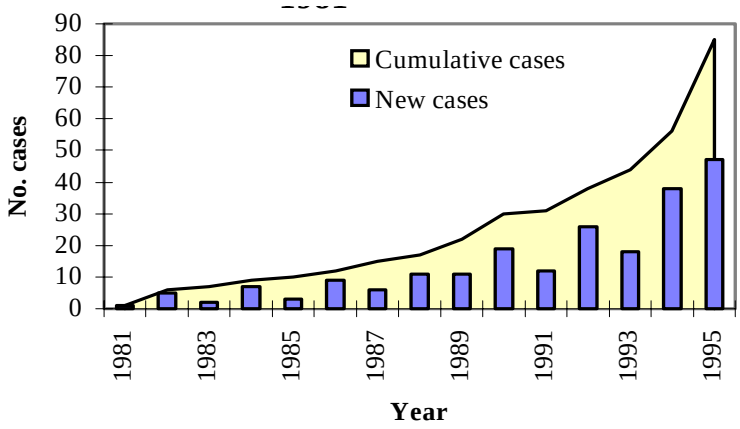
JD in sheep was first diagnosed near Bathurst, NSW in 1980. The disease has now been diagnosed on about 120 properties in NSW, an increase of about 35 (40%) for this quarter. Eight infected properties have been identified in Victoria since late 1995. JD in sheep in Australia is caused by a different strain of *M. paratuberculosis* to that normally associated with JD in cattle. The annual mortality from JD in infected flocks ranges from less than 1% to 14%. The rapid increase in detections of ovine JD in early 1996 is at least partly due to increased publicity and associated industry concern.

Table 6 shows the number of herds or flocks known or suspected to be infected, by State. Figure 5 shows the annual increase in ovine JD in NSW since 1981, and Map 2 shows the distribution of infected cattle herds in south-eastern Australia.

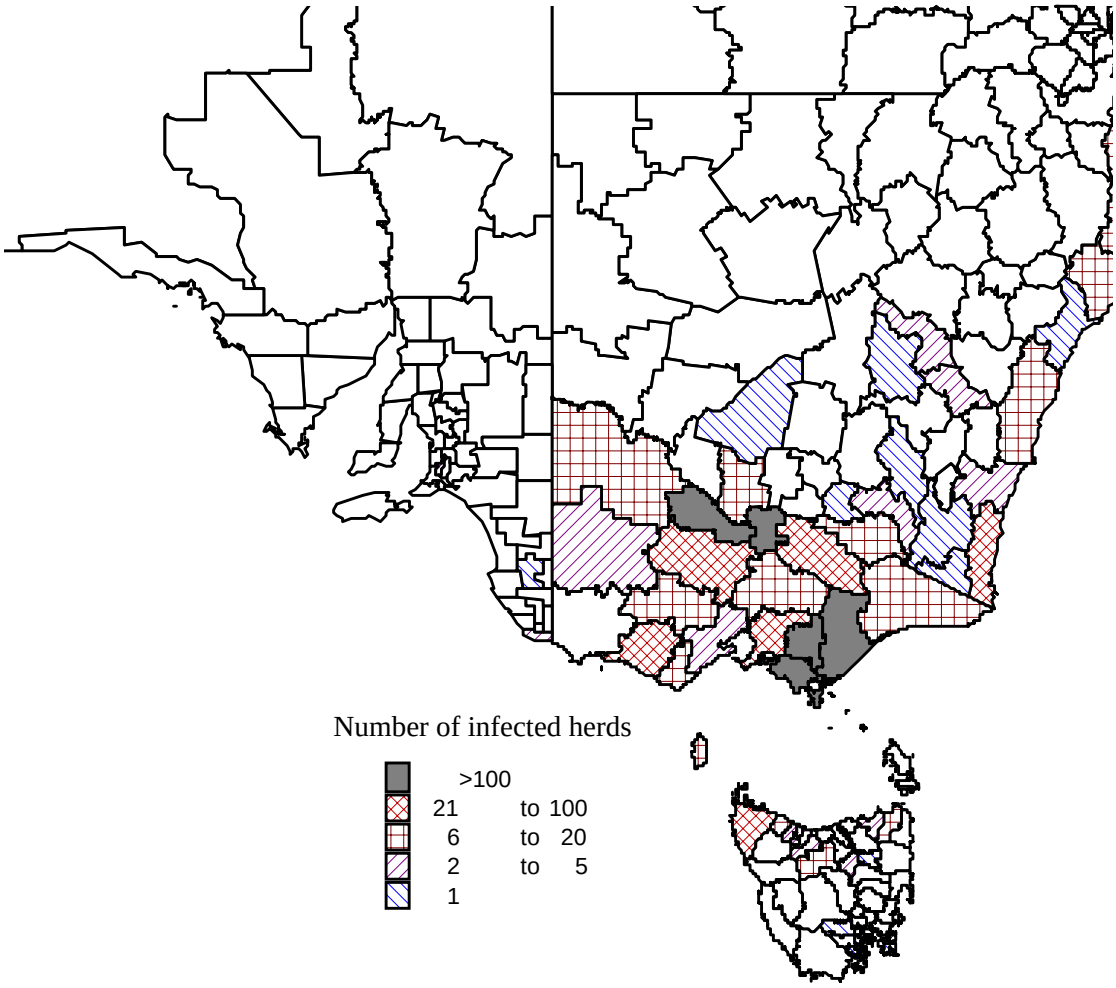
Table 6: JD-infected herds/flocks by State

State	Cattle herds	Sheep flocks	Other spp.
NSW	186	120	2
NT	1	0	0
SA	7	0	0
Tas.	130	0	14
Vic.	1475	8	6
Total	1799	128	22

Figure 5: Ovine Johne's disease in NSW since 1981



Map 2: Johne's disease infected cattle herds as at 31 March 1996



Equine diseases

Summary results of serological testing for equine infectious anaemia (EIA) and equine viral arteritis (EVA) carried out during the quarter are reported in Table 7.

Table 7: Equine viruses, 1 January to 31 March 1996

State	Equine infectious anaemia		equine viral arteritis	
	+ve	tested	+ve	tested
NSW	0	122	0	160
NT	0	0	0	0
Qld	0	28	0	29
SA	0	36	0	36
Tas.	1	5	0	0
Vic.	2	38	0	67
WA	0	42	0	52
Total	3	271	0	344

Ovine brucellosis

Brucellosis Accreditation programs are operating in most States. Table 8 shows the number of Accredited flocks in each State at the end of the quarter.

Table 8: Brucellosis Accredited Free Flocks

State	NSW	Qld	SA	Tas.	Vic.	WA	Total
Accredited flocks	1300	65	580	154	760	87	2946

National Residue Survey

Summary results from the National Residue Survey (NRS) for the period from 1 October to 31 December 1995 are shown in Table 9. Because of the short deadline for reporting and the time necessary for collecting and collating test results, NRS data are reported one quarter behind the current reporting quarter.

Contact: Terry Nicholls, National Residue Survey.

Table 9: Summary results of the National Residue Survey, 1 October to 31 December 1995

	Antimicrobials		Growth promotants		Metals		Anthelminthics		Insecticides	
State	>MRL	Samples	>MRL	Samples	>MRL	Samples	>MRL	Samples	>MRL	Samples
NSW	4	332	0	536	5	102	0	367	1	996
NT	0	22	0	14	0	3	0	5	0	20
Qld	5	291	0	395	4	59	0	239	0	583
SA	2	135	0	230	2	54	0	201	0	494
Tas.	0	14	0	20	1	5	0	20	0	29
Vic.	4	258	0	305	6	49	0	253	0	565
WA	0	109	0	121	7	44	0	122	0	272
Total	15	1161	0	1621	25	316	0	1207	1	2959
Year to date	37	5215	0	4232	62	942	0	3231	4	8861

Key: >MRL = exceeding maximum residue limit (or, for metals, the maximum permitted concentration)

Salmonellosis

The following data (Table 10) are provided courtesy of the National Salmonella Surveillance Scheme, maintained by the Microbiological Diagnostic Unit at the University of Melbourne. Further information on collection and interpretation of the data can be obtained by contacting them directly. In future editions we hope to provide more detailed data on common serotypes and temporal trends.

Source: National Salmonella Surveillance Scheme, Microbiological Diagnostic Unit, University of Melbourne.

Contact: Diane Lightfoot, National Salmonella Surveillance Scheme.

Table 10: *Salmonella* isolations for the period 1 January to 31 March 1996

Species	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas.	Vic.	WA	Total
Cattle	8		2	4	9	11	3	37
Ovine						1	1	2
Goats							66	66
Pigs	2				3	5		10
Poultry	4			2		8	2	16
Horses	3					12		15
Avian	4			6		5	1	16
Dogs/Cats		1			4		1	6
Reptiles			8				3	11
Natives	1	2		1		1		5
Total	22	3	10	13	16	43	77	184

Exotic disease investigations

Twenty exotic disease investigations were carried out during the quarter, as listed in Table 11.

Table 11: Exotic disease investigations in Australia during the reporting period.

Disease	Species	Month	State	Response	Finding
Newcastle disease	domestic fowl	Jan.	NSW	3	negative
EMV	horse	Jan.	NSW	3	whitewood poisoning
Screw-worm fly	human	Feb.	NSW	2	*Dermatobia hominis* (botfly)
Sheep/Goat Pox	goat	Feb.	NSW	2	multiple cutaneous histiocytoma
EMV	horse	Mar.	NSW	3	*Streptococcus equi* infection
Vesicular disease	multiple	Mar.	NSW	1	hoax call
EMV	horse	Mar.	Qld	1	Bacterial infection
EMV	horse	Mar.	Qld	2	Peracute Pneumonia
Vesicular disease	cattle	Mar.	Qld	6	Footrot/Allergy
Japanese encephalitis	pig	Mar.	Qld	1	serological positive[a]
Japanese encephalitis	pig	Mar.	Qld	1	negative[b]
Classical swine fever	pig	Jan.	Tas.	3	chronic oedema disease
Rabies	dog	Jan.	Vic.	1	acute abdominal crisis
Vesicular stomatitis	horse	Jan.	Vic.	1	trauma
EMV	horse	Jan.	WA	3	interstitial pneumonia
EMV	horse	Jan	WA	3	interstitial pneumonia
Rinderpest	cattle	Feb.	WA	3	malignant catarrhal fever
Quail bronchitis adenovirus	quail	Mar.	WA	2	negative for quail bronchitis adenovirus
Newcastle Disease/ Avian Influenza	domestic fowl	Mar.	WA	2	Marek's disease
Porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome	pig	Mar.	WA	3	interstitial pneumonia/hepatic necrosis[c]

Response key:

1 Field investigation by Government Officer
2 Investigation by State or Territory Government veterinary laboratory
3 Specimens sent to the Australian Animal Health Laboratory (or CSIRO Division of Entomology)
4 Specimens sent to reference laboratories overseas
5 Regulatory action taken (quarantine or police)
6 Alert or standby

Notes:

a Serological positives in sentinel pigs on Saibai Island in Torres Strait.
b Suspected serological positive in a pig on the tip of Cape York Peninsula, subsequently shown to be a false positive reaction.
c Preliminary testing for PRRS was negative, confirmatory test results are pending.

Disease Watch Hotline – 1800 675 888

The Disease Watch Hotline is a toll-free telephone number that connects callers to the relevant State or Territory officer to report concerns about any potential exotic disease situation. Anyone suspecting an exotic disease outbreak should use this number to get immediate advice and assistance.

Contact: Chris Bunn, Animal Diseases/Incidents (formerly the Foreign Diseases Unit), DPIE

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