



From 2018 to 2019 - Season's Greetings

Best wishes to all in our NABS network for the festive season and New Year. I hope everyone has a chance to relax a little, celebrate the successes of 2018 and do some planning for 2019.

Have you put the next **NABS Masterclass** in your calendar? It will be in Darwin on Friday 22 & Saturday 23 February. Have you sent in your registration form? Big encouragement from me for you to do so today. [Go to rego form here](#).

The Masterclass will give us a great chance to talk together, share case study discussions and practical sessions - should be an excellent workshop.

Each veterinary practice signed on to a NABS SDI package has an offer of two places, but you have to nominate soon. I'll look forward to seeing you there.

Reminder for NABS SDI cases:

- Put a sticker on your Lab form, or write 'NABS SDI' clearly at the top
- Take some pictures
- Let me know it's on the go.

Cheers Kev

Newsletter #7 (20 December 2018)





10 of 70 weaners dead over 4-6 weeks

12-month old weaners in the Pilbara gradually lost weight and appetite, became weak, collapsed and died in September-October. Two were autopsied 5 days apart and the main finding in both was nephrosis. [More info.](#)

Botulism - more tips from Tristan

The A-ELISA is a fantastic diagnostic tool. This test is sensitive and specific for antibody to type C and D botulinum toxins. A statistically significant difference between healthy and sick cattle in a suspect mob provides strong evidence for a diagnosis of botulism. This can be achieved at one visit by comparing samples between cattle from the lead of a mob with those from the tail of the mob. Cattle in the tail of the mob are likely to be suffering from chronic botulism and can be recognised by their tucked-up abdomens and staring coats. You need an adequate number of blood samples to achieve statistical significance if real differences are present. Sampling a minimum of 15 healthy and 15 sick or suspect animals is recommended.

Diagnosis of botulism from a helicopter? If cattle that are vaccinated against botulism (routine management or in an outbreak) are also 'bang-tailed', they can be identified easily at a later date. When sick or dead cattle in an outbreak are predominantly unmarked, it is highly suggestive of botulism. These observations can even be made from the air (or a drone)!

[More info on diagnosing botulism](#)



Apply NOW for FMD training in Nepal in March 2019

See Nepal and FMD first-hand – a great opportunity for someone in your practice. Two FMD training sessions are planned for: 4-8 March and 11-15 March 2019.

You need to apply asap – 3 places available and applications close 10th January - [more info and application form](#) or contact Lisa at Lisa.Stevenson@agriculture.gov.au

Previous participants have loved the experience – [see some photos and comments](#).

Participate in the 2019 NABS Masterclass: [Registration form](#)

Missed earlier newsletters? [read them here](#)

To subscribe: [join here](#)

Happy to help

Let me know anything you'd like covered here or on the website

Kevin Bell, NABS Vet Adviser

Contact at: nabsvetadviser@gmail.com / 0427 433 244

or visit www.nabsnet.com.au

Newsletter sent on Kevin's behalf from the team at Harris Park Group
