



NABS SDIs - part of the big picture

Welcome to 2019. In the last couple of NABS newsletters we've had some info on [African Swine Fever](#) – noting just how rapidly it has been spreading across China over the last few months.

DAWR has increased its border activities and AAHL recently tested a sample of pork products that had been seized at international airports and mail processing centres over a period of two weeks. I was stunned to read that 6 of the 152 pork products tested were contaminated with ASF virus.

Keeping ASF out of Australia is an issue for everyone, and we play an important part across the north. As it happens, the NABS SDI featured in this issue is a pig one – with ASF exclusion testing part of the work up. Disease investigations in pigs - farmed or feral - are part of our remit.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Masterclass later in February – great opportunity to discuss your experiences in disease investigation. We will also share ideas that emerge in future NABSnet newsletters.

Cheers Kev
Newsletter #8 (30 January 2019)



ASF - Haemorrhagic nasal discharge, photo Dr J Carr

23
Done

2
Going

NABS SDIs (private and govt)

85
Target
June 2019

Sow mortality in a small piggery - not ASF

Between Sept 2018 and Jan 2019, twelve sows in a 60 sow piggery stopped eating and lost condition. 7 sows had died. One moribund sow with a high temperature, swollen legs and face and severe skin blotching was euthanised and autopsied.

[Find out more](#)



One is good, more is better

Having samples from multiple animals enhances the chance of a positive diagnosis, but sometimes there's only one to look at when you are at an investigation.

If the producer has a PM kit on hand and basic skills to collect and fix samples, they can get more tissue if similar cases occur in subsequent days or weeks.

Leave a PM kit, show a couple of key people how to use it properly, and agree on the working 'case definition' so they are looking at appropriate animals.

You will be building the team and increasing the number of samples to assess – both multiplying the chance of success.



Northern exposure

Another batch of veterinary students have recently spent time in Northern Australia with a NABS student placement.

Reports indicate they are thoroughly enjoying seeing practice and production in the north: “working in large or mixed animal practice in North Queensland definitely *presents challenges largely unheard of in southern states... experienced veterinarians all advise one thing: get diverse experiences while you’re newly graduated as it may just make you a better vet in the future - and that’s something I think North Queensland can provide*”.



NABS Masterclass 2019 - FULLY BOOKED

The next NABS Masterclass will be held in Darwin, Fri 22 / Sat 23 February 2019.

This is an opportunity to build networks, get info on priority diseases for Northern Australia and hone skills in disease investigation. With everything from case study discussions to knife sharpening, should be a great session.

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

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Happy to help

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

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