



2019-20 - Season's Greetings

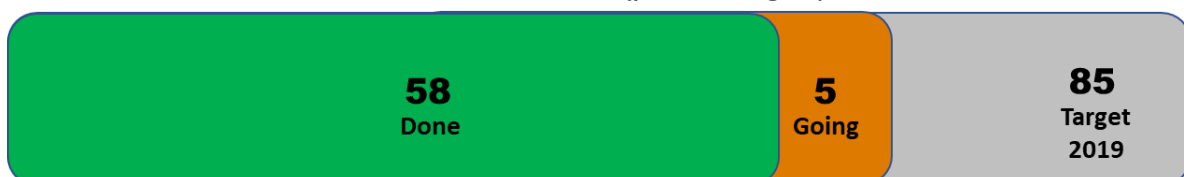
Here's wishing all of you in the NABS network the very best for the festive season and New Year. I hope everyone has a chance to relax a bit, celebrate all that's been achieved in 2019 and do some planning for 2020. Do take care of yourselves and each other as we wind up a hard year.

It is pleasing to have had a steady stream of SDI cases coming in. At this point there is still financial support for the cases in progress although the long-term future of the program hasn't yet been locked down. Everyone in the various hierarchies is positively impressed with the type and quality of the SDIs coming in (especially where there are exotic disease exclusions), so the desire is certainly there to continue the program beyond next March. We will have to wait to see if that occurs. Contact me if you have additional cases, to check if they are currently eligible.

DPIRD WA are coordinating plans for the next NABS Masterclass to be held in Broome on Friday 6th & Saturday 7th March 2020. Participants are welcome from across northern Australia. There is no registration fee and there is some financial support available for travel and accommodation. This will be another great opportunity to network and learn. More details below.

Cheers Kev
Newsletter #16 (19 December 2019)

NABS SDIs (private and govt)



3 horses dead and one with neurological signs

In October 2019 the new owners of a station in the Barcoo region found three horses recently dead and one horse showing neurological signs. They were keen to reach a diagnosis because they were planning to bring their own horses to the station in the next week.

The sick horse was a 10 year-old Australian Stockhorse mare, Body Condition Score 1.5 (scale 1 to 5). It had ataxia, falling and extended periods of recumbency with thrashing. A full physical examination was not conducted because of the safety risk that the horse posed to all involved.

It was euthanised and a post mortem conducted. Abdominal jaundice and stomach ulceration were the main gross findings (see photo).



Histopathology showed oesophageal ulceration, mild to moderate non-specific hepatocellular injury (possibly toxic) and encephalopathy (with no histological evidence of viral encephalitis).

Lead analysis and Hendra virus detection by real-time PCR were both negative.

The histological changes are strongly suggestive of *Crotalaria* toxicity. With the clinical signs, widespread jaundice and history of recent flooding, the diagnosis of 'Chillagoe horse disease' (caused by *C. aridicola* or *C. medicaginea*) was highly likely.

These plants were not observed at the time of the disease investigation but the new station owners were asked to walk the horse paddock in search of *Crotalaria* plants, take photos and send them to the DPI or Longreach Veterinary Service for confirmation.

The owner was advised to fence off high risk areas i.e. river banks and flood out country or move all horses to a new paddock free of *Crotalaria* spp.

[Read more](#)



Crotalaria medicaginea (Trefoil Rattlepod)



Crotalaria aridicola

Apply NOW for NABS Masterclass III

What

Surveillance in the extensive Northern beef industry.

African Swine Fever in East Timor

Disease investigation review

Five special interest topics of your choice

When

6 & 7 March 2020,

8.30 am Friday to 5.00 pm on Saturday.

Where

The Mangrove Hotel, Broome, WA

Cost

There is no cost for registration.

A subsidy is available from your state agriculture department for actual expenses up to \$1000 to \$2000, depending on the circumstance. The purpose of the subsidy is to facilitate travel and accommodation.

Preference will be given to practices that have completed the pre-workshop survey and those that have signed up as NABS clinics. Early registrations will be advised of their subsidy quickly to allow you to book cheaper travel.

ACT now

Register

Tell us your choice of topics

Complete the pre-conference survey

Registrations close 1st February – get in early – places are limited

[Registration form here](#)

The value of surveillance during routine work

The NABS program is keen to quantify the value of surveillance in extensive areas in Northern Australia that occurs during veterinary visits to stations for routine procedures.

As experts in the area, clinics participating in the next Masterclass are asked to provide information that will ensure the tool being developed is representative of the private vet activities that occur in northern Australia.

The details collected will be de-identified to protect commercial interests. No information will be shared with third parties except in a collated and de-identified form.

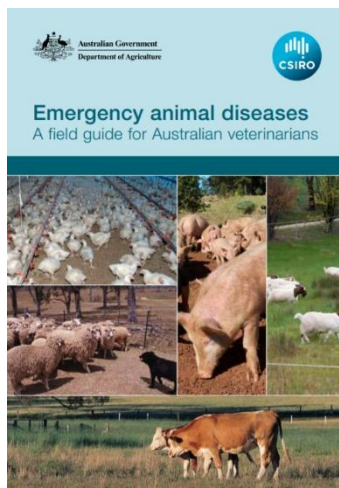
Even if you are not able to come to the Masterclass, you can contribute to this important research to demonstrate the value of veterinary work done on stations from a surveillance perspective.

**Get the [survey form here](#) and
return to Andrew.Larkins@dpird.wa.gov.au by 1st February**

Emergency Animal Disease resources online

The new (2019) edition of **Emergency animal diseases - A field guide for Australian veterinarians** ('the Blue Book') – is now available online.

<https://www.outbreak.gov.au/for-vets-and-scientists/emergency-animal-diseases-guide>



And there is a **new online training package** for veterinarians and veterinary students, created collaboratively by all the veterinary schools in Australia. Work through some really interesting case studies in youtube modules of about 30 mins.

www.eadonline.com.au

Emergency Animal Disease Surveillance
Online training

About

Welcome to the Emergency Animal Disease Surveillance Online Training, developed collaboratively by all Australian Veterinary Schools.

This project was funded by the Australian Government's Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper, the government's plan for stronger farmers and a stronger economy.

Australian Government
Department of Agriculture

Completed the course?
Don't forget to complete our survey

Modules

Overview

Case study 1: Aborting goats

Case study 2: Lethargic backyard chooks

Case study 3: Wobbly horse

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Happy to help

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

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or visit www.nabsnet.com.au

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