



**NABSnet**

**Newsletter**

**#39 | 17 October 2022**

## Masterclass and networks

Hi all in NABSnet

The next Masterclass is coming up – Nov 25-26 – see below to register.

Following on with our theme of how to support / encourage clients to get their biosecurity management elements into good shape, we asked Netta McInnerney, a producer in WA who does a great job at tracking cattle movements, to share her tips.

It's terrific to see producers and practitioners following up on skin lesions to exclude Lumpy Skin Disease. Where there are multiple animals affected, lumps on skin, and especially if the animals look sick or ill-thrifty, it's a great opportunity to do an SDI to get a professional vet assessment and appropriate samples sent off.

But don't forget - you don't have to think it's an EAD to do an SDI - any significant disease event (multiple animals, mortalities or syndromes such as nervous signs or respiratory) in livestock or feral animals - is a potential SDI. Keep up the good work.

Welcome to Cindy Dudgeon as the NABS NT govt vet, and congrats to Regan Lynch as 'our' 2023 Nuffield scholar exploring on-farm culture around biosecurity in the northern beef industry.

Cheers  
Kev



Biosecurity Queensland in partnership with the Northern Australia Biosecurity Surveillance network and James Cook University present:

## **NABSnet Masterclass 2022 - Townsville**

When: **November 25 - 26 (Friday & Saturday)**

Where: **JCU (25 Nov) and Rydges Event Centre (26 Nov)**

Who: **Mixed and large animal vet practitioners in Nth Australia (capped at 30 people for the PM workshop)**

What: **Two days networking and enhancing knowledge and skills in EAD recognition, disease surveillance, investigation (SDIs) and response activities.**

Register your interest by 31<sup>st</sup> October - attendee list to be finalised by 4<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

[More info and to Register](#)



**How to improve farm biosecurity attitudes & practices?**



Regan Lynch, 2023 Nuffield Scholar

“We have sound technical biosecurity protocols for farms, but they’ll only work if producers act on them in a timely manner” – Regan Lynch has described the challenge, pitched to Nuffield and been awarded a scholarship for 2023 to explore this question for the Northern Australian beef industry.

“The current increased risks of incursion of FMD and LSD highlight the need to better understand the on-farm culture around biosecurity and made this an appealing topic for Nuffield and Animal Health Australia and Plant Health Australia to support” says Regan.

As part of her Nuffield, Regan plans to travel to Indonesia, the United Kingdom and parts of Africa - countries with current or historical significant disease eradication programs, and to Brazil where the production systems are similar to the Aussie north.

Regan has been part of our NABSnet network since its inception in 2018. It will be fantastic to hear her findings and reflections, as she travels, and in her reports. Go Regan – do keep us up-to-date as your study adventure evolves.

If you have any tips or contacts that you think could help her as she makes her plans – please contact:

Regan Lynch, Great Artesian Vet Surgery, Hughenden  
Ph: 0411 594 532 E: [regan@greatartesianvets.net](mailto:regan@greatartesianvets.net)

## One lump or two?

In September in FNQ small, raised, nodular skin lesions were observed on the necks of yearling Brangus steers by an owner who then contacted their veterinarian

concerned about the possibility of Lumpy Skin Disease.

Two of four yearling steers from a herd of 100 breeding cattle were affected. The steers were approximately 12 months old and were in slightly ill-thrifty, light body condition. Small, dry, nodular lumps were present on the necks of the two affected animals.



Skin biopsies were collected and submitted as fixed and unpreserved samples for LSD exclusion and establish a definitive diagnosis.

Histological changes observed in the biopsies were consistent with cutaneous bovine fibropapilloma.

Tests for capripoxvirus by real-time PCR on samples from both animals were negative.

Although LSD was considered unlikely by both the owner and the attending veterinarian, it was considered prudent to have exclusion tests done given that the lesions had only recently appeared and affected animals were slightly ill-thrifty.

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## Lumpy Skin Disease Quick Links

The [LSD action plan](#) just released..

And see [NABSnet hub page](#)

## Biosecurity tips for clients

### Tracking cattle movements

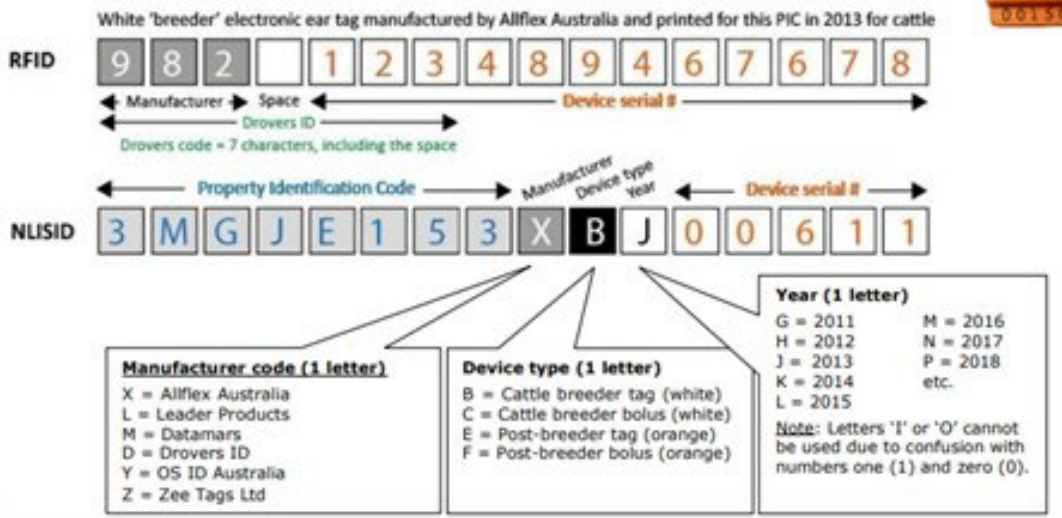
Knowing where cattle are located is good everyday practice, and essential in an EAD outbreak (think of C19 contract tracing!) where quicker outbreak control also means quicker return to trade markets.

Jeff and Netta McInnerney have been managing properties across northern Australia for many years. They are currently on Leopold Downs Station in WA. Netta has heaps of experience in tracking movement of cattle, and in the current environment of biosecurity focus, we asked her for tips about making NLIS work that we can pass on to clients.

**Here are some things that all stations should be doing, given our awareness of how things can slip.**

- **Set up the right network and tech info to support you in the process.** Establish a relationship with your NLIS Regional inspector and seek guidance from them. Also establish a relationship with the NLIS Database support group. Print out the Integrity Systems Tech Tips pages. Learn the story behind Cattle Devices ie what the device is telling you:

**Example: Electronic cattle device for a Victorian property**



- **Ensure you can get accurate reads of cattle.** If you are not, investigate why. If there is too much steel in the race, make a reader board panel from marine ply and insert into race or (and I think this is a big one missed) narrow your race down so animals are forced into the active area of the panel.

Listen to your reader as animals are going past. When loading a truck check with each pen that you have the same number in the pen and on the reader. If not, unload the pen and do it again (you don't do this very often before working out how to get good reads). Depending on how your reader is set up, those that have read will not read again and you should pick up the non-reader (unless they don't have a tag).

- **Learn how to fill out an NVD correctly (and do it)** Integrity Systems have excellent Youtube videos on this. An NVD is your animal's Passport – get it stamped everywhere "IT" goes. It is the backbone of traceability.
- **Start with reading every animal on and off your PIC.** Do not rely on a file from yesterday or whenever, actually read the animals onto or off a truck. If your current facilities don't allow that (such as a dump ramp for unloading) seriously consider how you can make this happen.

You need to read everything coming on, but we read everything off (even though it is purchasers' / other stations' responsibility to record the transfer) for 2 main reasons: It allows me to do the movement if not done by the receiving party, and if there are animals missed in a read done by the receiver I already have them up. If the receiver has missed animals in their movement, I speak with them if possible, or move the missed animals myself to get them off on our database. YOU are responsible for "YOUR" database. Solve all database discrepancies... chase one EID until you get it right. 1-2 wrong here and there amounts up over time.

- **Take notice of warnings received from the DataBase.** If you don't understand them then call NLIS support and they will explain. Learn what the

Warnings issued are telling you. Ignorance is not a defence.

- Working through the database support centre, **do a reconciliation of herd recording software and the database**. Don't forget tags in storage as they are placed on the database when manufactured. Work out what you have on hand and ensure these are the only tags you have on the database. Eliminate all old or no longer existing tags... Resolve any issues you find and then keep on top of it.

**There are more, but if people start with these, they will be a long way ahead.**

**Netta**

## **African swine fever eLearning resource now live**

A new online course on the prevention and early detection of African swine fever (ASF) has just been launched by Biosecurity Queensland.

This interactive course provides a detailed picture of the potential impacts of ASF, and how to prevent, recognise, and report this emergency disease.

It has a broad potential audience, and includes information tailored for vets and biosecurity specialists, utilising videos and other interactive elements to ensure clinical signs are clearly described.

The course is the first in a series of three, with eLearning modules on sampling and surveillance and biosecurity concepts currently under development.

Hosted by Animal Health Australia, this free course is now live and available through their online training portal. [Click here](#) for more information and access instructions.

By completing the course, Australian Veterinary Association members may be eligible to claim 1 VetEd continuing professional development (CPD) point.

## African swine fever (ASF) prevention and early detection

 Queensland Government



### **Cindy Dudgeon new NT gov vet connect for NABSnet**

All vet networks are dynamic – people join and move and sometimes come back – and it's great to have their input while they are around. Lil Stedman has moved to another role in the NT government for 6 months and we're super sad to see her go because she has been a terrific contributor to NABS, but we wish her a good time in health, and are really pleased to have Cindy Dudgeon on board as the NT gov connection – welcome Cindy.





**Cindy Dudgeon, Region Veterinary Officer, NT Gov**

Prior to this role Cindy was with DAFF in the Veterinary & Export Meat Branch as a live animal export/ on-plant veterinarian, and is currently in the final stages of completing a Master of Biosecurity through Murdoch University

**Key NABS SDI network contacts**

**Kevin Bell, NABS Vet Adviser**

Contact at: [nabsvetadviser@gmail.com](mailto:nabsvetadviser@gmail.com) / 0427 433 244

or visit [www.nabsnet.com.au](http://www.nabsnet.com.au)

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- WA **Graham Mackereth** [graham.mackereth@dpird.wa.gov.au](mailto:graham.mackereth@dpird.wa.gov.au)