



# Reporting a suspect Emergency Animal Disease

## SCHOOL FARM DETAILS

|   |   |       |
|---|---|-------|
| <b>School Principal</b>                                 | Name  | Phone |
| <b>Head Ag Teacher</b>                                  | Name  | Phone |
| <b>Veterinarian #1</b>                                  | Name  | Phone |
| <b>Veterinarian #2</b>                                  | Name  | Phone |
| <b>LLS* District</b>                                    | Region name   | Phone |
| <b>LLS* District Vet</b>                                | Name  | Phone |
| <b>PIC/s</b>  |   |       |
| <b>NLIS user ID</b>                                     |   |       |
| <b>PigPass registration no.</b>                         |   |       |
| <b>IAR no. (alpacas)</b>                                |   |       |
| <b>Pig tattoo / brand no.</b>                           |   |       |
| <b>School Animal Welfare Liaison Officer</b>            | Name  | Phone |
| <b>Schools Animal Care and Ethics Committee (SACEC)</b> | Sally Bannerman<br>Animal Welfare Coordinator<br>Tel: (02) 7814 2631<br>Email: <a href="mailto:sally.bannerman@det.nsw.edu.au">sally.bannerman@det.nsw.edu.au</a> |       |
| <b>Rural Agriculture Network Facilitator</b>            | Name  | Phone |

\*LLS - Local Land Services and NSW DPI RD - NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

**LOCAL LANDS SERVICES – 1300 795 299**  
**EMERGENCY ANIMAL DISEASE HOTLINE – 1800 675 888**

# Step 1 – Recognise the signs of an Emergency Animal Disease

**Any unexpected disease symptoms, unusual behaviour or unexplained deaths could be signs of an emergency animal disease (EAD).**

The following is a list examples of things that are suspicious for an EAD:

- a. the appearance of ulcers or blisters on the mouth or feet of livestock
- b. the appearance of skin nodules on cattle
- c. an unexplained and significant increase in a mortality (death) rate or morbidity (illness) rate in animals,
- d. an unexplained and significant fall in production levels
- e. the appearance of other unexplained and significant clinical signs including, but not limited to, unexplained neurological signs or conditions.



Refer to the **Glovebox Guide: Biosecurity emergency animal diseases and preparing livestock for transport**

[https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0011/1457696/Glovebox-guide-biosecurity-emergency-animal-diseases-and-preparing-livestock-for-transport.pdf](https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0011/1457696/Glovebox-guide-biosecurity-emergency-animal-diseases-and-preparing-livestock-for-transport.pdf)

**You have a duty, or legal obligation, to notify authorities immediately if you know or suspect that an animal has an Emergency Animal Disease.**

| Comments | Name and role | Date |
|----------|---------------|------|
|          |               |      |

# Step 2 – Collect available information to inform the authorities

Your name and location and contact details

School farm location

Species of animals affected

The clinical signs/symptoms present

Total number of animals on farm and how many are affected

i. Are any of these animals in adjoining pens?

Brief history including husbandry actions, onset of signs and recent movement of animals on and off the farm

Photos/videos of the animals and clinical signs if possible and without increasing contact with animals.

| Comments | Name and role | Date |
|----------|---------------|------|
|          |               |      |

## Step ③ – Notifying responsible staff member

**Call the school farm manager** (if this is not you) to report the highly suspect livestock and provide a situation report, advising the LLS District Veterinarian (or the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline) needs to be contacted.

|                      |             |
|----------------------|-------------|
| <b>Comments</b>      |             |
| <b>Name and role</b> | <b>Date</b> |

## Step ④ – Notify the authorities of your suspicion of an Emergency Animal Disease

If suspect livestock are showing clinical signs consistent with an Emergency Animal Disease (EAD), report it immediately. *Note: you may be requested to send images of lesions or the signs of disease and any available history:*

Call your **Local Land Services** and ask to speak to a **District Veterinarian (DV) 1300 795 299**

If you are unable to speak immediately with the LLS District Vet, call the **Emergency Animal Disease Hotline 1800 675 888**.

- i. Your call will be taken by a national triage call center and referred to NSW DPIRD.
- ii. The EAD Hotline duty office in NSW will call back within 45 mins of notification.

|                      |             |
|----------------------|-------------|
| <b>Comments</b>      |             |
| <b>Name and role</b> | <b>Date</b> |

## Step ⑤ – Notify management of the situation

Inform other relevant personnel at the school about the situation. This could include a:

- Farm assistant or manager, Head Teacher or Principal, plus the
- NSW Dept Education Animal Welfare Coordinator, for example.

|                      |             |
|----------------------|-------------|
| <b>Comments</b>      |             |
| <b>Name and role</b> | <b>Date</b> |

# Step ⑥ – Follow any instruction provided by the District Veterinarian or EAD Hotline officer

The LLS District Vet or DPIRD Emergency Animal Disease Hotline officer will provide advice on the best course of actions depending on their assessment on the level of risk posed by the situation.

|                           |             |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Instructions given</b> |             |
| <b>Actions completed</b>  |             |
| <b>Name and role</b>      | <b>Date</b> |

# Likely actions following a disease notification to the Local Land Services District Veterinarian or the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline if an emergency animal disease is suspected:

| Potential steps | Description  |
|-----------------|--|
| <b>A</b>        | <p>LLS District Veterinarian (DV) will carry out an investigation, including clinical examination of the livestock and collection of samples as required.</p> <p>Based on the level of risk, assessed prior to entering the farm area, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) may be worn by the investigating DV followed by decontamination out of the paddock/pen/farm.</p> <p><b>This situation may be categorized into:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Low suspicion</b> = investigation not consistent with Emergency Animal Disease (EAD), no further action required to rule out an EAD. Treat as a normal disease investigation.</li> <li><b>2. Moderate suspicion</b> = EAD unlikely but further investigation is required</li> <li><b>3. High suspicion</b> = investigation consistent with an EAD</li> </ol> <p>Any samples collected will be sent to the NSW DPIRD lab at Elizabeth Macarthur Agriculture Institute in Menangle for testing. All EAD submissions will also be tested at the Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness laboratory in Geelong.</p>  |
| <b>B</b>        | <p>The investigating LLS District Veterinarian (DV) will make a recommendation based on their investigation –if there is enough evidence to warrant an Emergency Animal Disease (EAD) exclusion. The investigating DV will discuss next steps with the school farm assistant/ manager or Head Teacher and Principal, as well as the EAD Hotline. The NSW Chief Veterinary Officer will be notified and will also assess the situation.</p> <p><b>The school farm assistant, manager or Head Teacher may be asked to:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Organize staff to control the entry/ exit gates to the school farm (prevent access to the area)</li> <li>2. Stop the entry and exit (movement) of livestock until the disease risk can be assessed.</li> <li>3. Do not allow any non-essential people (e.g., students, non-essential staff, tradespeople, visitors etc) into the school farm</li> <li>4. Notify all staff of a possible disease situation and request that they and all students remain away from the school farm until the Chief Veterinary Officer has made an informed risk assessment of the situation.</li> <li>5. Students and staff to avoid contact with the same livestock species at their home, if possible</li> </ol> |
| <b>C</b>        | <p>The school farm manager may be asked for copies of livestock movement documents and other records relating to the movement of animals and their products onto and from the premises/farm for affected OR all farm animals. This is to assess likelihood of disease introduction via this route AND any potential disease spread.</p> <p>Timely tracing is critical in swift and effective disease control.</p>  |
| <b>D</b>        | <p>Should the need arise, school farm staff may be asked to assist with setting up decontamination stations at farm entry/exit points. One decontamination point may need to be set up for low-risk persons (non-agriculture staff and students) and another decontamination point for high-risk persons (agriculture staff and students -persons that have been in the school farm areas)</p>   |

**The LLS District Veterinarian will be your primary point of contact throughout any emergency animal disease investigation – providing updates, guidance and support.**