National pest and disease emergencies - crisis communications

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FMD – World Distribution
WARNING
OUTBREAK OF
ANIMAL DISEASE

There has been a serious outbreak of animal disease in Australia. It is vital that each and every one of us, particularly people working with farm animals follow some simple steps to ensure the disease is controlled. Containment will give us the best possible chance of containing the disease quickly and effectively.

1. Keep watch for signs of the disease. Impact your animals or any unusual signs, and report it to your vet immediately. Compulsory will be imposed for livestock infected by the disease.
2. Keep clear of infected animals. Remove your livestock from the infected area. Do not feed livestock with contaminated feed or bedding.
3. Keep clean by washing and sanitizing yourself, your clothes, vehicles, and farm equipment after handling livestock. Avoid contact with equipment used in infected areas.
4. Do not move livestock or animal products. Even if you are not on a contained area, you cannot have your livestock if you are not well advised. It is vital that all livestock remains contained on the property. Local authorities may advise you to move if you are not within a contained area.
5. Keep your livestock out of other properties by ensuring all boundary fences are secure and by using a secure barrier between your properties.
6. Keep livestock away from any livestock, unless they are regularly inspected. Livestock must be clean, cattle and pigs are kept separate.
7. Keep livestock out of infected areas. Do not feed livestock on feed or produce animals o.e. do not feed well to pigs.

For further assistance, contact the information center provided to us. Ask the hotline, it's open 7 days a week.

1800 234 002
KEEP WATCH. KEEP CLEAN. KEEP OUT.
Protect Your Assets by Preventing a Major Animal or Plant Disease on Your Farm

For more information, or to report anything unusual, please contact:

Emergency Animal Disease Watch
Hotline 1800 675 888

Exotic Plant Post Hotline
Hotline 1800 084 881
www.planthealthaustralia.com.au

Quarantine (AQIS)
1800 020 504
www.aqis.gov.au

If you require help in your language, please ring the Translating and Interpreting Services (TIS) on 131 450.
www.daff.gov.au/biosecurity_nesb
BIRD FLU ALERT!

YOU MUST DECLARE
all poultry meat, poultry products, feathers, eggs or egg products to a Quarantine Officer.

Quarantine Matters!

Australian Government
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Australian Government
Australian Quarantine
and Inspection Service
BIRD FLU ALERT!

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Quarantine Matters!
Citrus Canker Emergency Queensland 2004

Graeme Hamilton
Chief Plant Protection Officer
Australian Citrus Production and Forecasts, 000 t
Citrus Canker Disease

- Bacterial disease caused by *Xanthomonas axonopodis* pv. *citri*
- Production loss – leaf and fruit drop
- Fruit quality
- $80 million potential loss Qld alone
- Significant quarantine pest
- World – Asia, Middle East, Africa, South America, USA-Florida
- History – NT, Torres St. - eradicated
Unrealistic Hypothetical

- A “top 10 plant pest”
- Minister’s electorate affected
- Election year
- $61 million perishable harvest begun
- 50% interstate trade
- $120 million exports from other States
- Affected property allegations of illegal importation; AQIS investigation 2001
- Nursery industry; native species
- Government/industry cost sharing
- IRAs: pork, apple, bananas, Florida citrus
Planned to death

- PLANTPLAN
- Industry Biosecurity Plan
- National Citrus Canker Contingency Plan
- DAFF Critical Incident Response Plan
- QDPI&F Incident Response Plan
Management Structures

• Queensland DPI&F

• Consultative Committee on Emergency Plant Pests:
  – Australian Govt.
  – States and Territories
  – Citrus Industry – Australian citrus growers
  – Plant Health Australia

• National Management Group
  – Agriculture Dept. CEOs; Industry President

• DAFF taskforce
To Eradicate or Not?

- Eradication
  - Biologically feasible + economically justifiable
- Containment
- Management

- NMG supported eradication initially up to $1.56 million;
- 50% Aust Gov: 50% States
Eradication

• Eradication on infected property
  – Destroy infected trees
  – Destroy all citrus within 600m
  – Monitor until property is free of disease – 2 years

• Other Emerald properties
  – Intensive surveys now
  – Repeat surveys after summer rain

• Traceforward
  – Budwood link to Nursery then to Central Burnett
  – Major surveillance effort

• Other States ban Qld fruit and other hosts
Market Access

- Other States – open this week
  - Certified packing shed inspection and treatment
  - Nursery industry – treatment for some species
- Queensland exports
- Other States exports
  - EU: State area freedom
  - USA: OK so far dialogue continues
  - NZ: some conditions which can be met; dialogue
Communication Issues

- Same Hymn sheet – talking points,
- One spokesperson,
- Committee confidentiality,
- Servicing the Minister’s office including, Ministerial correspondence,
- I misquoted myself - again
- I’m so tired I’ve become a liability

TOO MUCH COMMUNICATION IS NOT ENOUGH
Australian Government
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Australian Oranges
time to feel good
BRS Seminar Next Week – Friday 30 July

Risk assessment for the Import and Keeping of Exotic Vertebrates

Mary Bomford - BRS
Jane Campbell - DEH
Simon Barry - BRS