



Small Scale Livestock Promotion Program

SSLPP Notes



Investigating and reporting on animal disease outbreaks

Background

- This document is directed towards assistant veterinary officers (AVOs) and livestock extension staff.
- This document is concerned with investigation and reporting of diseases which affect a number of animals. It provides guidance and advice on what information should be reported.
- When a disease outbreak is suspected, you should report **without delay** to the person responsible for animal health in the affected area.
- Do not delay reporting in order to get accurate figures. Send what information you have immediately and later on send updated reports if necessary.
- Try to collect the type of information and data shown in the box below.
- A form for completion and forwarding is attached to this document.

What the disease investigator will want to know:
You should collect information and report on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is the area affected by the disease? For a large area, you might report the diameter in km of the area you know to be infected. For smaller areas, you might report the number of farms or households affected.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is the animal population at risk? This is the total population of the particular species in the area affected by the disease. If you do not know, give an estimate.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How many animals have been affected by the disease? If appropriate, provide a table showing the approximate numbers that have been affected each day or week since the disease first appeared.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How many animals have died from the disease? If appropriate, provide a table showing the approximate numbers that have died each day or week since the disease first appeared.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How many animals remain healthy?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What are the symptoms of the disease? How does it affect the animals? How long does it last?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What class of animal if any is affected most? Is it mainly the old animals, or mainly those in good condition, or one particular breed?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What steps have you or animal owners taken to prevent the disease?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What steps have you or animal owners taken to treat the disease? With what results?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Any other information you think is relevant.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What do you need to assist you to deal with this outbreak?

Reporting form for disease outbreak investigation

To be completed and forwarded by the Extension Officer or AVO.

<p>What is the area affected by the disease? (Diameter in km or number of farms or households affected)</p>	
<p>What is the animal population at risk?</p>	
<p>How many animals have been affected by the disease? Give time breakdown by dates if possible.</p>	<p>From to No:</p> <p>From to No:</p> <p>From to No:</p> <p>From to No:</p> <p>Total number affected:</p>
<p>How many animals have died from the disease? Give time breakdown by dates if possible.</p>	<p>From to No:</p> <p>From to No:</p> <p>From to No:</p> <p>From to No:</p> <p>Total number dead:</p>
<p>How many animals remain healthy?</p>	
<p>What are the symptoms of the disease? How does it affect the animals? How long does it last? (Use another sheet if necessary).</p>	
<p>What species and class of animal if any is affected most? Is it mainly the old animals, or mainly those in good condition, or one particular breed?</p>	<p>Species:</p> <p>Class most affected:</p>

<p>What steps have you or animal owners taken to prevent the disease?</p>	
<p>What steps have you or animal owners taken to treat the disease? With what results?</p>	
<p>Any other information you think is relevant. (Use another sheet if necessary).</p>	
<p>What do you need to assist you to deal with this outbreak?</p>	

Please complete and send this form **by fax or the fastest possible means** to the to the person responsible for animal health in the affected area. Persons responsible might include the SSLPP Field Veterinary Officer and/or the Divisional Veterinary Officer responsible for the affected ADD.

In all cases, make sure you **understand and follow the government requirements** for reporting of suspected outbreaks of animal disease. If you are in doubt, contact your Divisional Veterinary Officer.