



## 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"><li>• What is the <b>area affected</b> 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.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What is the <b>animal population at risk</b>? This is the total population of the particular species in the area affected by the disease. If you do not know, give an estimate.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How many animals have been <b>affected</b> 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.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How many animals have <b>died</b> from the disease? If appropriate, provide a table showing the approximate numbers that have died each day or week since the disease first appeared.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How many animals remain <b>healthy</b>?</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What are the <b>symptoms</b> of the disease? How does it affect the animals? How long does it last?</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What <b>class</b> of animal if any is affected most? Is it mainly the old animals, or mainly those in good condition, or one particular breed?</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What steps have you or animal owners taken to <b>prevent</b> the disease?</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What steps have you or animal owners taken to <b>treat</b> the disease? With what <b>results</b>?</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Any <b>other information</b> you think is relevant.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>What do you need</b> to assist you to deal with this outbreak?</li></ul>

**Reporting form for disease outbreak investigation**

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

<p>What is the <b>area affected</b> by the disease? (Diameter in km or number of farms or households affected)</p>	
<p>What is the <b>animal population at risk</b>?</p>	
<p>How many animals have been <b>affected</b> 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 <b>died</b> 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 <b>healthy</b>?</p>	
<p>What are the <b>symptoms</b> of the disease? How does it affect the animals? How long does it last? (Use another sheet if necessary).</p>	
<p>What <b>species</b> and <b>class</b> 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 <b>prevent</b> the disease?</p>	
<p>What steps have you or animal owners taken to <b>treat</b> the disease? With what <b>results</b>?</p>	
<p>Any <b>other information</b> you think is relevant. (Use another sheet if necessary).</p>	
<p><b>What do you need</b> 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.