AGRICULTURE VICTORIA

Cattle Compensation Fund

2024-25 Outcomes Summary

Further information regarding the Livestock Biosecurity Funds may be obtained from:

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Agriculture Victoria
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Cattle Compensation Advisory Committee

The Cattle Compensation Advisory Committee (CCAC) provides recommendations to the Minister for Agriculture on the allocation of funds from the Cattle Compensation Fund (CCF), delivered annually through the Livestock Biosecurity Funds grant program.

Funded projects aim to prevent, monitor, and control diseases, thereby improving animal health, biosecurity and supporting market access for the benefit of Victorian's cattle industries.

The Minister for Agriculture appoints the CCAC chairperson and members based on their expertise and experience in accordance with the requirements of the *Livestock Disease Control Act 1994* (the Act).

Activities of the Committee

During the 2024-25 financial year, CCAC convened eight times with secretariat support provided by Agriculture Victoria.

Key activities since July 2024 include:

- Conduct of the 2025 Livestock Biosecurity Funds grant program and contributing to the continuous improvement of the annual grant rounds.
- Reviewed and refined the strategic focus for the 2025 grant program to align with industry priorities
- Provided oversight of the Cattle Compensation Fund (CCF) including monitoring milestones and the progress of funded projects.

Livestock Biosecurity Funds grant program

Since the previous report, the CCAC has participated in the 2025 Livestock Biosecurity Funds grant program.

The CCAC members individually and the Committee collectively assessed each application received against the selection criteria outlined in the program Guidelines. In finalising recommendations and supporting justification to the Minister, the CCAC members' individual assessments, the available balance of the CCF and input from an independent assessment panel were considered to determine recommended projects. An independent Probity Advisor oversaw the process, including the management of conflict-of-interest declarations, and advised on appropriate actions to ensure integrity and transparency.

The 2025 Livestock Biosecurity Funds grant program was open for applications from 7 March 2025 to 14 April 2025. The round was launched with a webinar featuring presentations from all four advisory committees.

In May 2025 CCAC assessed all applications and recommended 12 projects, totalling $8,826,243, to the Minister for Agriculture for approval:

- VFF Stock Sense Peri Urban

- Healthy Wealthy and Bio-Wise
- Electronic National Livestock Identification System (NLIS)(Cattle) tag subsidy
- Cattle Compensation Fund Program Manager
- Addressing the growth in Victoria's phantom herd
- Dairy herd surveillance for influenza through air, milk and water
- Preparedness for livestock arbovirus outbreaks using artificial intelligence
- Developing evidence-based guidelines for liver fluke infection in cattle
- Preparing for potential H5N1 incursions into Victorian dairy cattle
- FarmVet Connect
- Portable Sensor for Early Detection of Parasitic infections in Cattle
- H5N1 Milk Disinfection Studies.

Improved communications and engagement

In 2023 the CCAC developed a three-year Communications and Engagement Strategy to guide how it promotes the grant program and shares the outcomes of funded projects with industry. The strategy outlines key tools, channels, and activities aimed at attracting high-quality applications and increasing awareness of the benefits delivered through Cattle Compensation Fund (CCF) projects. Implementation of the strategy commenced in 2023 and will continue over the next grant round, with a formal review scheduled at the end of the 3-year period.

As part of the rollout of the CCAC Communications and Engagement Strategy, a webinar launching the 2025 LBF grant program was held on 7 March 2025. The Chairpersons of the four Livestock Advisory Committees presented an overview of the 2025 program, including each committee's strategic focus, eligibility criteria, application process and participated in a Q&A session. The recording of the webinar is available on the Program Website.

Strategic focus for annual rounds

The CCAC reviewed the strategic direction for the CCF in late 2024 and identified 5 key themes.

1. Prevention – build ability for industry to reduce the risks of a biosecurity event.
2. Preparedness for response to biosecurity events – build response capability, capacity and planning of government and industry.
3. Traceability and early detection – enhance system integrity and effectiveness and build capability to improved surveillance and monitoring, to inform decision making.
4. Education – awareness and training for industry to better manage biosecurity risks and improve the adoption of better biosecurity practices.

5. Applied research – proof of concept support for novel technologies/approaches for improved diagnostic testing and treatments (e.g. point of care tests, vaccines etc).

In addition, to the broad focus areas listed above the CCAC identified the following targeted areas for 2025:

- Encouraging detail animal health and residue feedback in abattoirs used by Victorian producers.
- Build the capacity and capability of industry stakeholders and key support staff across the value-chain, such as vet nurses, administration teams, agriculture consultants, stock and station agents etc, to respond to an emergency disease event.

This strategic focus informed the selection criteria for the 2025 grant round and was incorporated into the program Guidelines.

LBF grant program projects

Milestone management of the successful projects is overseen by the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA), in consultation with the CCAC.

A summary of project activity to date is below.

Summary of active CCF projects

Project (Recipient)	Project Timeline	Total allocated from CCF	Achievements to 30 August 2025
25.04 Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) Stock Sense Peri Urban (VFF) Focuses on peri-urban livestock owners or hobby farmers to raise awareness and knowledge of key animal health and welfare issues, with a particular focus on farm biosecurity and traceability responsibilities.	Jan 2026 – Dec 2028	$1,245,000	Successful applicant 2025 LBF grant program
25.06 Electronic National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) (Cattle) tag subsidy (Biosecurity Victoria, DEECA) The tag subsidy provides producers access to attractively priced NLIS tags	$5,550,000	Jan 2026-Mar 2029	Successful applicant 2025 LBF grant program

Project (Recipient)	Project Timeline	Total allocated from CCF	Achievements to 30 August 2025
through periodic tendering, and centralised tag ordering.			
25.11 Healthy Wealthy and Bio-Wise (Biosecurity Victoria, DEECA) To deliver a multi-session extension and education initiative that enhances biosecurity and animal health preparedness, management, planning and preventative measures.	Oct 2025 – Mar 2031	$482,000	Successful applicant 2025 LBF grant program.
25.13 Cattle Compensation Fund Program Manager (Agriculture Victoria, DEECA) Aims to develop a portfolio of CCF grant funding opportunities consistent with the CCAC's Statement of Strategic Intent and to facilitate applications in the 2026 and 2027 LBF grant program rounds.	Oct 2025 – Sep 2027	$540,000	Successful applicant 2025 LBF grant program.
25.14 Addressing the growth in Victoria's phantom herd (Biosecurity Victoria, DEECA) To investigate why the phantom herd is growing and why NLIS cattle tag devices are not being retired.	Oct 2025 – Sep 2026	$175,000	Successful applicant 2025 LBF grant program.
25.15 Dairy herd surveillance for influenza through air, milk and water (Agriculture Victoria Research, DEECA) To develop and evaluate air, milk and stock water sampling methodologies to enhance passive pathogen surveillance of cattle herds.	Oct 2025 – Oct 2026	$136,186	Successful applicant 2025 LBF grant program.

Project (Recipient)	Project Timeline	Total allocated from CCF	Achievements to 30 August 2025
25.17 Preparedness for livestock arbovirus outbreaks using artificial intelligence (Ausvet Pty Ltd) To assist better planning for Blue Tongue Virus and other arboviruses by examining future distributions under climate change scenarios using modelling with artificial intelligence.	Oct 2025 – Oct 2026	$194,395	Successful applicant 2025 LBF grant program.
25.18 Developing evidence-based guidelines for liver fluke infection in cattle (The University of Melbourne) Aims to develop evidence-based guidelines to manage liver fluke in Victorian cattle.	Oct 2025 – May 2028	$183,200	Successful applicant 2025 LBF grant program.
25.19 Preparing for potential H5N1 incursions into Victorian dairy cattle (The University of Melbourne) To investigate the on-farm transmission dynamics of H5N1 influenza in dairy cattle to identify opportunities for optimal intervention and testing strategies that can minimise the risk of and contain potential H5N1 incursion into Victorian dairy cattle.	Oct 2025 – Mar 2026	$65,128	Successful applicant 2025 LBF grant program.
25.20 FarmVet Connect (Veterinary Support Services Pty Ltd) This pilot program will partner early career veterinarians with Victorian beef and dairy producers for one year to build	Oct 2025 – May 2027	$102,160	Successful applicant 2025 LBF grant program.

Project (Recipient)	Project Timeline	Total allocated from CCF	Achievements to 30 August 2025
rural networks, foster cross-sector relationships, and support veterinary and agriculture industry education and support.			
25.21 Portable Sensor for Early Detection of Parasitic Infections in Cattle (Deakin University) Aims to develop a portable, disposable electrochemical sensor for rapid on-site detection of parasitic infections in cattle, eliminating costly and slow laboratory tests.	Oct 2025 – Oct 2026	$97,924	Successful applicant 2025 LBF grant program.
25.22 H5N1 Milk Disinfection Studies (Dairy Australia) To investigate the effectiveness of disinfectants (that are practically available to Victorian dairy farmers) against H5N1 and provide evidence-based advice on how to manage milk from clinically affected cows, in the event that the H5N1 subtype enters Australia and subsequently enters the National dairy herd.	Oct 2025 – Sep 2026	$55,250	Successful applicant 2025 LBF grant program.
24.02 Risks of potential EAD transmission between feral pigs and farmed livestock (Arthur Rylah Institute, DEECA) To quantify the potential risk of EAD transmission between farmed livestock (cattle, sheep and pigs) and feral pigs by quantifying areas in Victoria where feral pigs could pose a significant reservoir for EADs.	Apr 2025 – Nov 2025	$208,00	A spatially balanced, random sampling design was used to select 166 sites across Victoria to sample feral pig densities. At each site a heat-in-motion remote camera was deployed in suitable habitat in late March/early April and left in place for 6 weeks.

Project (Recipient)	Project Timeline	Total allocated from CCF	Achievements to 30 August 2025
Including identification of cost-effective strategies for managing feral pigs in the event of an EAD outbreak to eliminate the potential for disease transmission.			Images of pigs from each camera will be collated and used to estimate feral pig densities at monitored sites, which will then be used to estimate the distribution and abundance of feral pigs across the state.
24.04 Milk tanker decontamination procedures for use in an FMD outbreak (Australian Dairy Farmers' Limited) To develop decontamination procedures for milk tankers for effective implementation in field conditions.	Aug 2024 – Sep 2025	$100,000	Consultant appointed. Terms of reference drawn up by ADF/DA, including evaluation measures and the proposed impact. Victorian Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) drafted for road testing. SOP to cover all aspects of tanker decontamination. Draft SOP tested in the field, with results recorded in a summary report outlining practicality of different modes of cleaning and disinfecting tankers under a variety of conditions.
24.05 The Enhanced Feedlot Preparedness Project (Australian Lot Feeders' Association) Aims to leverage the outcomes of "Exercise High Steaks" to create an interactive desk top simulation that allows lot feeders to build their own	Sep 2024 – Nov 2025	$226,000	Project plan developed and finalised and successful engagement of Think Digital Studios to develop the immersive simulation exercise experience.

Project (Recipient)	Project Timeline	Total allocated from CCF	Achievements to 30 August 2025
capacity in relation to an EAD preparedness.			
24.06 Animal Disease Investigation (ADI) Course (Biosecurity Victoria, DEECA) A two-day course run by Agriculture Victoria Veterinary Officers and AgriBio pathologists annually in four different regional locations across Victoria delivering training in disease investigation, field epidemiology, biosecurity, and advanced necropsy techniques for Victorian livestock veterinary practitioners.	Jan 2025 – Jun 2027	$54,528	The first four Animal Disease Investigation (ADI) courses for veterinarians are being prepared and planned to be held across several locations in Victoria including Ellinbank, Rutherglen, Bendigo and Hamilton.
24.09 Cattle composting trial to prepare for an EAD outbreak (Biosecurity Victoria, DEECA) Trial for composting cattle carcasses in windrows to test the viability of this method of waste management for infected properties during an EAD outbreak	Sep 2024 – Dec 2025	$205,000	Small-scale cattle composting trial is underway until the end of 2025 at the Agriculture Victoria Rutherglen site as part of the Emergency Animal Disease Preparedness Program. The on-ground elements of the composting trial commenced at Agriculture Victoria's Rutherglen site on 25 April 2025. The trial has EPA approval, with strict environmental and odour monitoring processes in place.

Project (Recipient)	Project Timeline	Total allocated from CCF	Achievements to 30 August 2025
24.10 Electronic National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) (Cattle) tag tender (Biosecurity Victoria, DEECA) Coordinate preparation of tender related material both pre, during and after. Allowing Agriculture Victoria with continued industry support to provide attractively priced electronic NLIS ear tags to Victoria's 50,000 active cattle producers.	Apr 2025 – Feb 2026	$62,500	Grant agreement executed September 2024.
24.12 Enhancing veterinary surveillance capability in Victoria (Biosecurity Victoria, DEECA) To evaluate and strengthen the capability of private veterinary practitioners to deliver effective surveillance for livestock diseases in Victoria.	Dec 2024 – Jun 2027	$84,330	Grant agreement executed September 2024.
24.14 Private veterinary practitioner up-skill, online project (Biosecurity Victoria, DEECA) Aims to increase the capability and confidence of private veterinary practitioners (PVP's) to identify and respond appropriately to the suspicion of significant diseases (SD's) in cattle, sheep, goats and pigs.	Dec 2024 – Dec 2026	$50,000	Engagement of species specialists. 10 case study diseases for each species group agreed upon. Project plan developed. Learning Management System Platform has been written ready for use and a case study template developed. Development of pre and post course evaluation.

Project (Recipient)	Project Timeline	Total allocated from CCF	Achievements to 30 August 2025
			Communication plan and materials developed.
24.17 Stage 2 - Truck wash review - Addressing biosecurity risks (Biosecurity Victoria, DEECA) Aims to build on the previously funded RMCG study/report in addressing the gap in Victoria's truck wash network in Melbourne's outer west.	TBC	$200,000	Grant agreement executed February 2025.
24.19 Traceability - Victorian Dairy farms: A social research investigation (Charles Sturt University) To provide a clearer understanding of the risk posed by undocumented property to property (P2P) movements of dairy cows, calves and/or heifers, and will capture the drivers of behaviour of Victorian dairy farmers in relation to their interactions with the traceability system.	Nov 2024 – Jan 2026	$68,099	Approved ethics and interview framework. Communications and extension plan. Completion of interviews with Victorian dairy producers. Recommendations from interview participants being reviewed.
24.21 Gippsland Q Fever Prevention Project (GippsDairy Board) To safeguard public health by offering subsidised vaccination for the Q fever virus in the Gippsland region due to its large dairy farming industry, and steady increase in Q fever cases in the last decade.	Sep 2024 – Dec 2025	$62,620	Three GP clinics have been recruited in Gippsland to provide subsidised Q fever testing and vaccination. The GP clinics are spread across Gippsland in Korumburra, Neerim South and Sale. An existing Gippsland GP clinic already

Project (Recipient)	Project Timeline	Total allocated from CCF	Achievements to 30 August 2025
			offering Q Fever testing and vaccination is being recruited to provide practical hands-on training to 2 clinics in areas across Gippsland where the dairy industry workforce has not had access to Q Fever testing and vaccination. The Gippsland Q Fever prevention project steering committee have been successful in securing further external funding to extend this project and the Q Fever testing and vaccination subsidies for a further two years.
24.23 A modular program for the onfarm integration of developing veterinarian (Herd Health Pty. Ltd) To enhance the skills of Victoria's emerging livestock veterinarians through a modular development program focused on on-farm management, biosecurity, disease investigation, and emergency response.	Oct 2024 – May 2026	$78,911	A modified Herd Health training program for rural veterinarians has been developed into a series of face-to-face training modules. The program includes extensive refresher content in epidemiology, a contextual summary of AUSVETPLAN, and practical training in disease investigation. Endemic disease case studies have been created as team exercises to integrate all learned material.

Project (Recipient)	Project Timeline	Total allocated from CCF	Achievements to 30 August 2025
			The course flyer developed and circulated.
24.27 Infected Premises - Livestock Producers Awareness Course (P2r2 Consulting Pty Ltd) To inform livestock producers as to what happens on an Infected Premises after an emergency animal disease has been diagnosed.	Oct 2024 – Dec 2025	$41,060	Successful completion of an extensive stakeholder consultation program and subsequent development of training strategy session plans & materials.
24.30 Managing animal mortalities in emergencies - Training Course (P2r2 Consulting Pty Ltd) Development of training materials, in consultation with Agriculture Victoria, on how to manage animal mortalities in emergency situations that are appropriate for livestock producers and staff involved in an emergency animal disease or natural disaster response.	Aug 2024 – Nov 2026	$78,675	Successful completion of course 1 and 2 of the 'Managing Animal Mortalities in an Emergency' Training Course. The course participants included both state and local government representatives. The next two courses are planned for early August and September 2025.
24.32 Testing and optimising rapid appraisal for outbreaks in Victorian cattle (University of Melbourne) To enhance preparedness for responding to emergency animal disease outbreaks and seek to minimise the negative impacts on the Victorian cattle industry from potentially devastating outbreaks.	Mar 2025 – Oct 2026	$135,000	Grant agreement executed September 2024.

Project (Recipient)	Project Timeline	Total allocated from CCF	Achievements to 30 August 2025
24.34 Victorian Livestock Veterinary Scholarship (Veterinary Support Services Pty Ltd) To deliver a 24-month structured livestock veterinary scholarship with clinical supervision and training that provides early-career veterinarians with skills, experience, networks and support to launch and sustain a livestock veterinary career in regional Victoria.	Aug 2024 – Feb 2029	$1,474,969	All candidates have now commenced full-time employment in their respective regional Victorian veterinary practices with 3 candidates in Gippsland, 1 situated in south-west Victoria and 4 distributed across northern Victoria. Onboarding is now complete. Contracts for all candidates and the clinic-supervisor teams have been signed and returned. A comprehensive clinical skills assessment has been developed by VLVS management, and all candidates have completed this as a pre-program commencement benchmark. A clinical case log and a reflection tool has been developed. Comprehensive education and training survey was developed and completed by all candidates. Pre commencement phase of project is now complete.

Project (Recipient)	Project Timeline	Total allocated from CCF	Achievements to 30 August 2025
24.36 Producer Led Extension (Stock Sense Livestock) (Victorian Farmers Federation) Aims to increase producer awareness and adoption of practices that improve on-farm biosecurity and animal health in Victoria with a particular focus on peri urban landholders who have been identified as the highest biosecurity risk.	Feb 2025 – Dec 2025	$395,000	8 webinars and 9 face-to face workshops held to the end of June 2025. Average of 26 participants at face-to-face events to date. Stock Sense has a full calendar scheduled for the remainder of the 2025.
22.16 Control and prevention of anthrax (Biosecurity Victoria, DEECA) Assisting producers to quickly vaccinate livestock during an anthrax outbreak and undertake annual preventative vaccination.	Jul 2023 – Oct 2026	$ 150,000	In the year 2024-25, preventive anthrax vaccination of 3,286 cattle was carried out on 15 approved properties (10 cattle properties and 5 properties with cattle and sheep). There were no anthrax outbreaks during this period so no response vaccination activities.
22.21 NLIS Cattle Tag Subsidy (Biosecurity Victoria, DEECA) To assist Victorian producers with the identification of cattle with subsidies. The NLIS (Cattle) system tags ensure maintenance of the disease-free status of Victoria's beef and dairy herds.	Jan 2024 – Mar 2026	$2,700,000	Continued assistance of Victorian cattle producers with the identification of sheep and goats using NLIS system tags.
21.07 NLIS Cattle Tag Subsidy-Additional 0.20c (Biosecurity Victoria, DEECA) Addition of 0.20c subsidy for Victorian cattle producers.	Aug 2021 – Sep 2025	$1,600,000	Addition of 0.20c tag subsidy for Victorian cattle producers.

Project (Recipient)	Project Timeline	Total allocated from CCF	Achievements to 30 August 2025
22.18 Victorian Significant Disease Investigation (SDI) Program (Biosecurity Victoria, DEECA) To enhance the capacity for early detection and control of diseases in livestock that could impact human health, animal health, farm productivity and market access and trade.	Jul 2023 - Oct 2026	$360,000	There were 1,015 cattle disease investigations undertaken and reported to Agriculture Victoria between 1 July 2024 and 30 June 2025. Two hundred and forty, from 215 different properties, were identified as subsidised investigations under the Significant Disease Investigation (SDI) program.
21.13 Risk and Records (Agriculture Sector Development and Services, DEECA) Extension program to develop livestock managers understanding, skills and confidence to implement traceability and biosecurity systems that underpin and protect Victoria's livestock industry.	Jul 2022 – Dec 2025	$104,000	A total of 189 participants have attended a Risk and Records workshop in this reporting period. Participants have been equipped with skills to implement changes including: • Enhancing farm biosecurity awareness and planning. • Updating and increasing recordkeeping. • Sharing information with family members. • Improving water plans and farm maps. • Preparing for droughts and farm quarantine.

Project (Recipient)	Project Timeline	Total allocated from CCF	Achievements to 30 August 2025
			• Installing biosecurity signs and fencing off pits. Seven Meat and Wool staff are now competent to deliver and facilitate Risk and Records workshops.
21.12 Reducing the economic impact of Neospora infection in the livestock industry (Arthur Rylah Institute, DEECA) To improve the detection, prevention and management of the Neospora disease in the Victorian livestock industry and maximise the production of dairy farms in Victoria.	Jul 2022 - Oct 2025	$325,306	Five dairy farms agreed to participate in contributing samples from their herds. Samples collected by veterinarians between January 2023 and November 2024 with various scenarios tested to evaluate the trade-offs between infection control, improved biosecurity practices and herd management strategies.
21.04 Livestock AMR Practices - Industry Review and Survey (Biosecurity Victoria, DEECA) Comprehensive review of the Victorian livestock industry's AMS practices to guide the development of an expanded AMR awareness and education program and to align with the first Victorian 'One Health' AMR Strategy.	Jul 2022 – Nov 2025	$197,720	The University of Melbourne Asia Pacific Centre for Animal Health (APCAH) has entered an agreement with the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action to conduct a review of Antimicrobial Stewardship (AMS) practices of veterinarians servicing the sheep and goat industries in Victoria.

Project (Recipient)	Project Timeline	Total allocated from CCF	Achievements to 30 August 2025
			The final report, titled "A review of antimicrobial stewardship practices of veterinarians servicing the cattle, sheep and goat industries in Victoria" was received from University of Melbourne in January 2024. Key findings from this report were presented and/communicated to: • Cattle, sheep and goat veterinarians at the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists (ANCVS) Vet Science week conference in July 2024. • The Animal Health Committee AMR Task Group (established Oct 2024) to identify national priority areas for government leadership from Australia's Animal Sector Antimicrobial Resistance Action Plan 2023 to 2028 (Action Plan) and to provide leadership on key Plan activities.
21.06 Mycoplasma bovis in Victorian dairy herds (University of Melbourne)	Jul 2022 – TBC	$100,000	Project on hold.

Project (Recipient)	Project Timeline	Total allocated from CCF	Achievements to 30 August 2025
To develop a method of detecting Mycoplasma bovis in dairy herds and understanding the pathogen's impact on Victoria's milk quality and production.			
21.02 Autogenous Vaccine Development (Biosecurity Victoria, DEECA) To identify a prioritised disease affecting beef and dairy cattle and develop an autogenous vaccine solution – and recognise that autogenous vaccines can directly reduce the pressure on the emergence of antimicrobial resistant organisms.	Jul 2022 – TBC	$164,396	Project on hold.
22.15 Community pig control and surveillance (Biosecurity Victoria, DEECA) Pilot program working with producers on private and private/public interface to control feral pigs and assist in monitoring genetics and presence or proof of absence of disease.	Jul 2023 – Aug 2026	$187,671	Establishment of three Community Feral Pig control groups. Establishment of three Feral Scan community groups. Three group inception meetings and one exclusion fencing course.
22.23 Property Identification Code (PIC) refresh for cattle producers (Biosecurity Victoria, DEECA) Refreshing Victoria's PIC register of cattle producers and will also involve working with producers to ensure that all parcels of land associated with	Jul 2023 – Oct 2025	$150,000	Recruitment delayed due to emergency animal disease response.

Project (Recipient)	Project Timeline	Total allocated from CCF	Achievements to 30 August 2025
their enterprises are linked to their PICs.			

Summary of CCF projects closed – June 2024 to August 2025

Project (Recipient)	Project Completed	Total CCF contribution	Outcomes
20.09 eNVD Uptake - Whole Supply Chain (Agrinous) To eliminate inefficiencies in manual handling of paper NVD's and to ensure product integrity and enhanced biosecurity.	**NA**	**$66,046**	Project withdrawn from grant program due to significant delays attributed to pandemic.

Background

Cattle Compensation Fund (CCF)

Victoria's Cattle Compensation Fund (CCF) is established under the *Livestock Disease Control Act 1994* (the Act) and is funded through duties collected on the sale of cattle, calves or cattle carcasses.

The CCF receive a duty of $0.05 for every $20 or part of the sale price of each head of cattle sold singly or based on the total sale price when multiple cattle were sold in one lot. This duty was calculated on the full amount, rounding up to the nearest $20 increment. The duty charged for any one head of cattle – whether sold individually or as part of a lot – was capped at a maximum of $5.00.

- A duty of $0.90 applies to each cattle carcass weighing up to and including 250 kg.
- Carcasses weighing more than 250 kg attract a duty of $1.30 each.
- Calves (defined as cattle under six weeks of age) incur a duty of $0.15 per head.
- The term "cattle" includes bulls, cows, oxen, steers, heifers, bison, and buffalo.

The Act outlines the permitted uses of funds from the Cattle Compensation Fund (CCF). These funds are generally allocated to support projects and programs that benefit the Victorian cattle industry, provide compensation for specified endemic diseases and cover the administration of CCF.

All expenditure from the funds requires approval from the Minister for Agriculture, following consideration of advice from the Cattle Compensation Advisory Committee (CCAC).

Livestock Biosecurity Funds Grant Program

The Livestock Biosecurity Funds Grant Program is administered by the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action, with funding from the respective fund:

- Cattle Compensation Fund
- Sheep and Goat Compensation Fund
- Swine Compensation Fund
- Honey Bee Compensation and Industry Development Fund.

The Livestock Biosecurity Funds grant program aims to support projects and programs that prevent, monitor, and control diseases, thereby improving animal health, biosecurity, and market access for the benefit of Victoria’s cattle, sheep, goat, swine, and honey bee industries.

Funds from the Livestock Biosecurity Funds Grant Program are allocated to projects that deliver outcomes aligned with the Act, and demonstrate the following principles:

- Innovative solutions and emerging technologies for unsolved livestock biosecurity issues, needs, or gaps.
- Collaboration where possible across value chains.
- Quantifiable benefits to the whole of the livestock industries, which are measured and evaluated with evidence and data.

Each fund has a statement of strategic intent that outlines priority investment areas and desired outcomes aligned with the purpose and objectives of the Act. These statements are incorporated into the Guidelines annually.

For more information on the Program, see agriculture.vic.gov.au/support-and-resources/funds-grants-programs/livestock-biosecurity-funds.

Current membership

- **Ron Harris (**chairperson) is farmer at Nagambie supplying branded grass-fed beef programs focussed on quality. Ron is an agricultural scientist who has held executive roles in the Department of Agriculture for over a decade. Ron has been the Chairperson of the CCAC for 7 years.
- **Lachie Sutherland** (member) and family own and operate a 380-cow dairy farm at Larpent west of Colac. Lachie is a member of Dairy Famers Victoria and has previously been a policy councillor for the United Dairy Farmers of Victoria.
- **Liz Summerville** (member) has been with the Australian Livestock and Property Agents Association (ALPA) representing the interests of Victorian livestock and property agents since 2014. Liz is passionate about Australian agriculture and has a detailed understanding of the agency and agricultural industries with almost 30 years' experience.
- **Jenny O'Sullivan** (member) is well known for her role in promoting sustainable, productive agriculture, particularly in Gippsland where she and her husband run a 680ha beef and sheep property. Over the years, Jenny has helped develop and deliver many initiatives to encourage people to adopt sustainable management practices.
- **Jemma Harper** (member) is the General Manager, Corporate Affairs at the Australian Meat Industry Council (AMIC). Prior to this she held roles within Australia's red meat processing industry research and development organisation. Her career spans stakeholder engagement, communications, R&D, marketing, meat exports, and natural resource management. Based in South West Victoria where she also manages a small beef enterprise, Jemma holds degrees in Law and Business and is a strong advocate for Australian agriculture and primary production.
- **Peter Miller** (member) is a first-generation farmer with a deep passion for agriculture. Peter services as a Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) auditor, assessing farms for compliance with best practices in quality assurance.
- **John Allen** (member) is a private veterinary consultant. John was Principal Research Scientist and Program Leader of the International Engagement Program based at CSIRO's Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness (ACDP) from 2009 to 2023. John

has extensive experience in the management of projects enhancing the diagnosis and control of transboundary animal and zoonotic diseases across numerous countries within the Asia Pacific Region, contributing to Australia's pre-border biosecurity. He was a Director of Vets Beyond Borders from 2019 to 2024, and a Director of Veterinaries Sans Frontieres, (VSF International) from 2020 to 2023. John is a current Committee Member of the Crawford Fund's Victorian Committee.