

AGRICULTURE VICTORIA



Cattle Compensation Fund

2021-24 Outcomes Summary



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Cattle Compensation Advisory Committee

The Cattle Compensation Advisory Committee (CCAC) provides recommendations to the Minister for Agriculture for expenditure from the Cattle Compensation Fund (CCF), through the annual Livestock Biosecurity Funds Grant Program. Successful projects and programs prevent, monitor, and control diseases, thereby enhancing animal health, biosecurity and market access for the benefit of Victorian cattle industry.

The Minister for Agriculture appoints the CCAC chairperson and members on the basis of their skills and experience in the prescribed areas under the *Livestock Disease Control Act 1994* (the Act).

The CCAC met 7 times in the 2023-2024 financial year, supported by Agriculture Victoria as secretariat.

Activities of the Committee

Key activities since July 2023 include:

- The assessment of 2024 Livestock Biosecurity Funds grant program and contributing to the continuous improvement of the annual grant rounds
- Finalisation of a CCAC Strategic Communications and Engagement Strategy that is being rolled out over the next 3 grant rounds
- Reviewed the strategic focus for the 2024 Livestock Biosecurity Funds grant program
- Contributed to the new member's selection process and improved induction and handover to new membership
- Oversight of the CCF and milestones for successful projects

Livestock Biosecurity Funds Grant Program

Since the last report, the CCF has been a part of the following Livestock Biosecurity Funds Grant Program rounds. See background below for more detail.

The CCAC assessed every application received against the selection criteria set out in the Guidelines. In finalising their recommendation and supporting justification to the Minister, the CCAC considered their individual assessments, the available balance of their fund and a report from an independent assessment panel to determine the successful projects. An independent Probity Advisor oversaw the conflict-of-interest declarations and recommended the appropriate treatment of each.

2021 Livestock Biosecurity Funds Grant Program

The 2021 Livestock Biosecurity Funds Grant Program was open from 17 September to 26 November 2021.

The CCAC assessed all applications in early 2022 and recommended 7 projects, totalling \$995,856, to the Minister for Agriculture for approval:

- Risks and Records (Cattle)
- Reducing the economic impact of Neospora infection in the livestock industry
- Antimicrobial resistance in pathogenic bacteria of Victorian cattle
- Truck wash and effluent disposal review – Phase 1
- Livestock AMR Practices – Industry Review and Survey
- Mycoplasma bovis in Victorian dairy herds
- Autogenous Vaccine Development - Cattle

2022 targeted Livestock Biosecurity Funds Grant Program round

In June 2022, CCAC agreed to participate in a joint targeted funding round, together with the sheep and goat, and swine livestock advisory committees.

The 3 committees identified a gap in emergency preparedness in the projects funded by the Livestock Biosecurity Funds given the outbreaks of Lumpy Skin Disease and Foot and Mouth Disease in Indonesia in 2022.

Invitations were sought from Agriculture Victoria, with 2 successful projects recommended by the CCAC and approved by the Minister for Agriculture, totalling \$75,000 (CCF contribution \$48,000):

- Strategic holding facilities for use during a livestock standstill
- On farm disposal tool

2022 Livestock Biosecurity Funds Grant Program

The 2022 Livestock Biosecurity Funds Grant Program was open from 27 October to 23 December 2022.

The CCAC assessed all applications in early 2023 and recommended 8 projects, totalling \$3,690,574.18, to the Minister for Agriculture for approval:

- Control and prevention of Anthrax
- Optimal outcomes for Victoria during a FMD incursion
- Victorian Significant Investigations Disease (SDI) Program
- Community pig control and surveillance
- CRLX Enhanced Traceability Initiative
- Electronic National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) (Cattle) tag subsidy
- Improving antimicrobial susceptibility testing for cattle
- Property Identification Code (PIC) refresh for cattle producers

Plus an additional \$1,600,000.00 over 4 years to increase the NLIS tag subsidy by \$0.20 on average per tag purchased online.

2024 Livestock Biosecurity Funds Grant Program

The 2024 Livestock Biosecurity Funds Grant Program was open from 4 March 2023 to 15 April 2024, including a webinar to launch the round, presented by all 4 committees.

The CCAC assessed all applications in mid-2024 and recommended 17 projects, totalling \$3,524,692, to the Minister for Agriculture for approval:

- Risks of potential EAD transmission between feral pigs and farmed livestock
- Animal Disease Investigation (ADI) Course
- Cattle composting trial to prepare for an Emergency Animal Disease outbreak
- Electronic National Livestock Identification System (NLIS)(Cattle) tag tender
- Enhancing veterinary surveillance capability in Victoria
- Gippsland Q Fever Prevention Project
- Infected Premises - Livestock Producers Awareness Course
- Managing animal mortalities in emergencies - Training Course
- Milk tanker decontamination procedures for use in an FMD outbreak
- Private veterinary practitioner up-skill, online project
- Producer Led Extension (Stock Sense Livestock)
- Risks of potential EAD transmission between feral pigs and farmed livestock
- Stage 2 - Truck wash review - Addressing biosecurity risks
- Testing and optimising rapid appraisal for outbreaks in Victorian cattle
- The Enhanced Feedlot Preparedness Project
- Traceability - Victorian Dairy farms: A social research investigation
- Victorian Livestock Veterinary Scholarship

Improvements to the governance and operation of the committee

Improved communications and engagement

The CCAC developed a Communications and Engagement Strategy that outlines the tools, channels and activities to ensure the grant round attracts quality applications, and the benefits of the CCF projects are shared with industry. The CCAC Communications and Engagement Strategy will be implemented over the next 3 rounds and reviewed every 3 years.

As part of the rollout of the CCAC Communications and Engagement Strategy, the inaugural webinar to launch the 2024 grant round was held on 4 March 2024. The 4 chairpersons presented an overview of the 2024 Livestock Biosecurity Funds Grant

Program and its strategic focus, eligibility, requirements and how to apply and held a Q&A session. The recording is available on the [Program Website](#).

Strategic focus for annual rounds

The CCAC reviewed the strategic direction for the CCF in late 2023 and identified 5 key themes:

- Preparedness for response – Prevention and building response capability, capacity and planning
- Traceability – enhance system integrity and effectiveness
- Early detection – improved surveillance and monitoring
- Education – awareness and training for industry to better manage biosecurity risks
- Research – particularly technologies for testing and treatment (eg vaccines)

In addition, the CCAC identified 2 targeted areas for 2024:

- Livestock veterinary capability to respond to an EAD outbreak
- Data management and animal health or potential residue feedback

This strategic focus formed the selection criteria for the 2024 grant round and was incorporated in the Guidelines.

Member selection changes and improved committee inductions and handover

From October 2022, changes were made to the *Livestock Disease Control Act 1994*, to allow for a maximum of 9 members appointed by the Minister for Agriculture based on skills and experience.

The Minister for Agriculture makes an appointment after considering a candidate's experience in one or more of the following areas:

- the cattle and allied industries
- biosecurity or market access
- quality assurance and food safety
- finance, legal practice, or business management
- agricultural, animal or veterinary science
- public policy
- any other area the Minister considers relevant to the functions of the Committee

The livestock advisory committees were consulted on the legislative changes and in the development of the selection process in 2022 and 2023.

The CCAC also worked with the Secretariat to develop the additional criteria for the selection of CCAC members and an improved induction package for the new CCAC membership.

Appointment of a new committee

The previous membership, appointed by the Minister for Agriculture from prescribed nominating bodies expired on 22 June 2024. Following a 3-year term and a short-term extension, an Expression of Interest process for CCAC membership was open from 10 April to 11 May 2024.

A Selection Panel, chaired by Agriculture Victoria and including industry representation, assessed all applications against the selection matrix. The Selection Panel conducted interviews and probity checks and recommended the preferred candidates to the Minister for Agriculture.

The Minister for Agriculture appointed the below members for a 3-year term, from 12 August 2024.

- Mr Ron Harris (chairperson)
- Ms Liz Summerville (member)
- Mr Lachlan Sutherland (member)
- Ms Jennifer O’Sullivan (member)
- Dr John Allen (member)
- Ms Jemma Harper (member)
- Mr Peter Miller (member)

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 since 1 July 2020 to 30 September 2024 is below.

Summary of active CCF projects

Project (Recipient)	Project Timeline	Total allocated from CCF	Achievements to 30 September 2024
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	Apr 2025 – Nov 2025	\$208,00	Grant agreement executed in August 2024

Project (Recipient)	Project Timeline	Total allocated from CCF	Achievements to 30 September 2024
<p>significant reservoir for EADs. Including identification of cost-effective strategies for managing feral pigs in the event of an EAD outbreak to eliminate the potential for disease transmission</p>			
<p>24.04 Milk tanker decontamination procedures for use in an FMD outbreak (Australian Dairy Farmers' Limited)</p> <p>To develop decontamination procedures for milk tankers for effective implementation in field conditions.</p>	<p>Aug 2024 – Sep 2025</p>	<p>\$100,000</p>	<p>Grant agreement executed in August 2024</p>
<p>24.05 The Enhanced Feedlot Preparedness Project (Australian Lot Feeders' Association)</p> <p>Aims to leverage the outcomes of "Exercise High Steaks" to create an interactive desk top simulation that allows lot feeders to build their own capacity in relation to an EAD preparedness.</p>	<p>Sep 2024 – Nov 2025</p>	<p>\$226,000</p>	<p>Grant agreement executed in September 2024</p>
<p>24.06 Animal Disease Investigation (ADI) Course (Biosecurity Victoria, DEECA)</p> <p>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</p>	<p>Jan 2025 – Jun 2027</p>	<p>\$54,528</p>	<p>Grant agreement executed August 2024</p>

Project (Recipient)	Project Timeline	Total allocated from CCF	Achievements to 30 September 2024
epidemiology, biosecurity, and advanced necropsy techniques for Victorian livestock veterinary practitioners			
<p>24.09 Cattle composting trial to prepare for an EAD outbreak (Biosecurity Victoria, DEECA)</p> <p>Trial for composting cattle carcasses in windrows to test the viability of this method of waste management for infected properties during an EAD outbreak</p>	Sep 2024 – Dec 2025	\$205,000	Grant agreement executed September 2024
<p>24.10 Electronic National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) (Cattle) tag tender (Biosecurity Victoria, DEECA)</p> <p>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.</p>	Apr 2025 – Feb 2026	\$62,500	Grant agreement executed September 2024
<p>24.12 Enhancing veterinary surveillance capability in Victoria (Biosecurity Victoria, DEECA)</p> <p>To evaluate and strengthen the capability of private veterinary practitioners to deliver effective surveillance for livestock diseases in Victoria.</p>	Dec 2024 – Jun 2027	\$84,330	Grant agreement executed September 2024

Project (Recipient)	Project Timeline	Total allocated from CCF	Achievements to 30 September 2024
<p>24.14 Private veterinary practitioner up-skill, online project (Biosecurity Victoria, DEECA)</p> <p>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</p>	Dec 2024 – Dec 2026	\$50,000	Grant agreement executed September 2024
<p>24.17 Stage 2 - Truck wash review - Addressing biosecurity risks (Biosecurity Victoria, DEECA)</p> <p>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.</p>	TBC	\$200,000	Milestone negotiations underway.
<p>24.19 Traceability - Victorian Dairy farms: A social research investigation (Charles Sturt University)</p> <p>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.</p>	Nov 2024 – Jan 2026	\$68,099	Grant agreement executed November 2024

Project (Recipient)	Project Timeline	Total allocated from CCF	Achievements to 30 September 2024
<p>24.21 Gippsland Q Fever Prevention Project (GippsDairy Board)</p> <p>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.</p>	Sep 2024 – Jun 2025	\$62,620	Grant agreement executed September 2024
<p>24.23 A modular program for the onfarm integration of developing veterinarian (Herd Health Pty. Ltd)</p> <p>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.</p>	Oct 2024 – May 2026	\$78,911	Proposed curriculum has been prepared
<p>24.27 Infected Premises - Livestock Producers Awareness Course (P2r2 Consulting Pty Ltd)</p> <p>To inform livestock producers as to what happens on an Infected Premises after an emergency animal disease has been diagnosed.</p>	Oct 2024 – Dec 2025	\$41,060	Grant agreement executed September 2024
<p>24.30 Managing animal mortalities in emergencies - Training Course (P2r2 Consulting Pty Ltd)</p> <p>Development of training materials, in consultation with</p>	Aug 2024 – Nov 2026	\$78,675	Successful completion of an extensive stakeholder consultation program and subsequent development of training course and materials. Also participated in a

Project (Recipient)	Project Timeline	Total allocated from CCF	Achievements to 30 September 2024
<p>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</p>			<p>Veterinary Capability Workshop with other project participants to explore opportunities for synergies between other successful projects.</p>
<p>24.32 Testing and optimising rapid appraisal for outbreaks in Victorian cattle (University of Melbourne)</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Mar 2025 – Oct 2026</p>	<p>\$135,000</p>	<p>Grant agreement executed September 2024</p>
<p>24.34 Victorian Livestock Veterinary Scholarship (Veterinary Support Services Pty Ltd)</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Aug 2024 – Feb 2029</p>	<p>\$1,474,969</p>	<p>VLVS program has been advertised and marketed broadly across veterinary and agricultural media platforms including in Victorian Farmers Federation, GippsDairy, Murray Dairy and WestVic Dairy and Australian Veterinary Association (Victorian branch) newsletters, local newspapers and radio broadcasts, Stock and Land and multiple social media networks. The seven Australian universities offering a veterinary degree program have also helped distribute program information and set up</p>



Project (Recipient)	Project Timeline	Total allocated from CCF	Achievements to 30 September 2024
			<p>webinars, trade and social events to better educate final year vet students about the VLVS scholarship.</p> <p>Application forms for candidate and supervisors and a veterinary clinic information and declaration form have all been developed and are currently active and on several online platforms including the Veterinary Support Services website. Information webinars have been conducted and well attended to enhance applicant, supervisor and vet clinic understanding of scholarship eligibility, requirements and implementation.</p> <p>Following shortlisting and interviews by a diverse interview panel, 8 candidates are due to commence in January 2025.</p> <p>Contracts are being developed for all stakeholders and clinical assessment tools are being built in order to appraise the successful candidates to inform, plan and better direct and personalise their supervision and further</p>

Project (Recipient)	Project Timeline	Total allocated from CCF	Achievements to 30 September 2024
			education across the 2-year program.
<p>24.36 Producer Led Extension (Stock Sense Livestock) (Victorian Farmers Federation)</p> <p>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</p>	Feb 2025 – Dec 2025	\$395,000	Grant agreement executed October 2024
<p>22.16 Control and prevention of anthrax (Biosecurity Victoria, DEECA)</p> <p>Assisting producers to quickly vaccinate livestock during an anthrax outbreak and undertake annual preventative vaccination.</p>	Jul 2023 – Oct 2026	\$ 150,000	Progress reports have been delayed due to emergency animal disease response.
<p>22.21 NLIS Cattle Tag Subsidy (Biosecurity Victoria, DEECA)</p> <p>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.</p>	Jan 2024 – Mar 2026	\$2,700,000	Continued assistance of Victorian cattle producers with the identification of sheep and goats using NLIS system tags
<p>21.07 NLIS Cattle Tag Subsidy- Additional 0.20c (Biosecurity Victoria, DEECA)</p> <p>Addition of 0.20c subsidy for Victorian cattle producers</p>	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 September 2024
<p>22.18 Victorian Significant Disease Investigation (SDI) Program (Biosecurity Victoria, DEECA)</p> <p>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.</p>	Jul 2023 - Oct 2026	\$360,000	<p>Communication and engagement plan presented.</p> <p>There were 1,074 cattle disease investigations undertaken and reported to Agriculture Victoria between 1 July 2023 and 30 June 2024.</p>
<p>20.09 eNVD Uptake - Whole Supply Chain (Agrinuous)</p> <p>To eliminate inefficiencies in manual handling of paper NVD's and to ensure product integrity and enhanced biosecurity.</p>	Oct 2020 – TBC	\$66,046	<p>Progress delayed due to COVID impacts.</p> <p>eNVD integration is complete.</p> <p>Awaiting confirmation if project can continue given progress in this space since application in 2020.</p>
<p>21.13 Risk and Records (Agriculture Sector Development and Services, DEECA)</p> <p>Extension program to develop livestock managers understanding, skills and confidence to implement traceability and biosecurity systems that underpin and protect Victoria's livestock industry.</p>	Jul 2022 – Jun 2025	\$104,000	<p>A total of 77 cattle producers (74 beef and 3 dairy), in addition to 75 sheep and goat producers, attended a total of 12 workshops between June 2022 and July 2023, with an average of 12 cattle, sheep and goat producers attending per workshop</p>
<p>21.12 Reducing the economic impact of Neospora infection in the livestock industry (Arthur Rylah Institute, DEECA)</p> <p>To improve the detection, prevention and management of</p>	Jul 2022 -Jun 2025	\$325,306	<p>Establishment of Neospora infection long term monitoring of three dairy and one beef properties as well as initiated a screening of working dogs in regional</p>

Project (Recipient)	Project Timeline	Total allocated from CCF	Achievements to 30 September 2024
<p>the Neospora disease in the Victorian livestock industry and maximise the production of dairy farms in Victoria</p>			<p>areas to monitor risks of horizontal transmission of the parasite.</p>
<p>21.04 Livestock AMR Practices - Industry Review and Survey (Biosecurity Victoria, DEECA)</p> <p>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</p>	<p>Jul 2022 – TBC 2024</p>	<p>\$197,720</p>	<p>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 cattle industries in Victoria. APCA will also be designing a survey questionnaire for use by Agriculture Victoria to evaluate on-farm AMS practice awareness and veterinary chemical usage by Victorian cattle producers.</p> <p>Project completion delayed due to emergency animal disease response.</p>
<p>21.06 Mycoplasma bovis in Victorian dairy herds (University of Melbourne)</p> <p>To develop a method of detecting Mycoplasma bovis in dairy herds and understanding the pathogen's impact on Victoria's milk quality and production.</p>	<p>Jul 2022 – TBC</p>	<p>\$100,000</p>	<p>One large milk processor has provided access to herd bulk tank samples.</p> <p>Two rounds of testing have now been completed on all samples from this processor collected in March and August.</p>

Project (Recipient)	Project Timeline	Total allocated from CCF	Achievements to 30 September 2024
			Awaiting final and evaluation reports.
<p>21.02 Autogenous Vaccine Development (Biosecurity Victoria, DEECA)</p> <p>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.</p>	Jul 2022 – Sep 2025	\$164,396	<p>Completed project plan, scientific literature review, and detailed manufacturing plan.</p> <p>Application for the APVMA permit in progress.</p>
<p>22.15 Community pig control and surveillance (Biosecurity Victoria, DEECA)</p> <p>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.</p>	Jul 2023 – Aug 2026	\$187,671	<p>Group locations have been identified with one in East Gippsland and one in Hume.</p> <p>Engagement underway.</p>
<p>22.23 Property Identification Code (PIC) refresh for cattle producers (Biosecurity Victoria, DEECA)</p> <p>Refreshing Victoria’s PIC register of cattle producers and will also involve working with producers to ensure that all parcels of land associated with their enterprises are linked to their PICs.</p>	Jul 2023 – Oct 2025	\$150,000	<p>Recruitment delayed due to emergency animal disease response. Project led due to commence in December 2024.</p>

Summary of CCF projects closed - July 2021 to June 2024

Project (Recipient)	Project Completed	Total CCF contribution	Outcomes
<p>20.13 Managing transit stock in Saleyards (Livestock Saleyards Association of Victoria)</p> <p>To build and demonstrate an integrated digital system to manage the capture of transit stock information at saleyards and encourage the commercial uptake of this system in saleyards.</p>	November 2021	\$44,810	<p>System built with demonstration videos distributed to agents, transporters, the media and approximately 75 saleyards nationwide.</p> <p>15 saleyards received onsite demonstrations</p>
<p>20.14 Metagenomic enhancements of abortion diagnostics (Agriculture Victoria Research, DEECA)</p> <p>To apply high-throughput sequencing (HTS) to a repository of abortion samples collected in Victoria to identify associated pathogens. Adoption of HTS will enhance the existing diagnostics capabilities to identify causes of abortion and stillbirth in cattle and manage disease in industry.</p>	December 2021	\$28,124	<p>Establishment of a repository of submissions from aborted fetuses submitted through the SDI program.</p> <p>Creation of a curated, genomic reference database of established pathogens of bovine abortion for use in HTS analysis.</p> <p>A list of potential pathogens detected in the bovine abortion biorepository comparison of aborted foetal material, placental material, and vaginal swabs through the HTS sequencing pipeline.</p>
<p>20.12 Identification of nematode-susceptible cattle (La Trobe University)</p>	April 2022	\$44,800	Blood and faeces were sampled from 4 populations of beef cattle (Hereford, Angus and their

Project (Recipient)	Project Completed	Total CCF contribution	Outcomes
<p>To develop a diagnostic index to identify cattle that are relatively resistant to nematode infection and use the index to determine if 'new' Hereford strains, influenced by American germplines, are more susceptible to nematode infection.</p>			<p>crosses) on two farms in Southern Gippsland.</p> <p>The cattle were tested for faecal egg count, plasma pepsinogen concentrations, peripheral eosinophilia and body weight as indicators of susceptibility to nematode infection.</p> <p>An index was created and used to compare Angus and Hereford cattle, with no difference identified between animals of the same age grazing on the same pasture.</p>
<p>21.01 Antimicrobial resistance in pathogenic bacteria of Victorian cattle (Agriculture Victoria Research, DEECA)</p> <p>To develop a better understanding of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) in common bacteria to assist in identifying gaps in knowledge and assist with the surveillance of AMR in Victorian cattle.</p>	June 2023	\$40,000	<p>The Veterinary Diagnostic Bacteriology Laboratory (VDBL) has established an isolate retention system for the curated bacterial collection that will allow for further research, traceability, and comparison to similar or related cases that will support the livestock industry.</p>
<p>20.18 Novel Diagnostics for Animal Diseases (Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO))</p> <p>To enhance Victoria and Australia's ability for early detection and</p>	July 2023	\$213,683	<p>Development of a proof-of-concept systems serology assay for the detection of antibodies to the structural and non-structural proteins of all seven FMD virus serotypes.</p> <p>Development of a proof-of-concept systems serology assay for detection of antibodies to</p>

Project (Recipient)	Project Completed	Total CCF contribution	Outcomes
<p>characterisation of exotic and endemic viral diseases of livestock in particular Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and Bluetongue Virus (BT)</p>			<p>three structural and non-structural proteins of bluetongue virus, targeting 13 serotypes endemic in Australia.</p>
<p>22.20 CRLX Enhances Traceability Initiative (RLX Operating Company Pty Limited)</p> <p>Provides surveillance of all untracked cattle movements throughout the CLRX saleyard facility. An opportunity to strengthen the Victorian biosecurity system with early detection and close monitoring.</p>	<p>March 2024</p>	<p>\$45,930</p>	<p>CRLX was successful in modifying their facility from being open all hours to all, and not knowing who was using their facility to having a site that now has 2 operational ramps post sale day that funnels all traffic through 2 high tech scanners with recording devices that allow them to fully interpret every cattle movement throughout the site 24 hours a day.</p> <p>In addition, using integrated software they are able to identify who the cattle belonged to and which operators transported them to the site and who collected them</p>
<p>20.07 Control and prevention of anthrax (Biosecurity Victoria, DEECA)</p> <p>To support anthrax vaccination of cattle affected and high-risk properties.</p>	<p>August 2023</p>	<p>\$17,058</p>	<p>Between 1 July 2020 and 30 June 2023 prevention of anthrax vaccination was administered to 1937 head of cattle across 21 properties.</p>

Project (Recipient)	Project Completed	Total CCF contribution	Outcomes
<p>22.04 Strategic holding facilities for use during a livestock standstill (Biosecurity Victoria, DEECA)</p> <p>To provide saleyard staff at strategic holding sites the capability and a targeted training package to manage stock receipt and biosecurity during a livestock standstill</p>	September 2023	\$32,000	<p>Suitable locations able to receive livestock across the state of Victoria were cross analysed with livestock transport data to identify 11 active saleyards as ideal holding site facilities.</p> <p>Specific training was delivered to each of the holding site facilities, with ongoing plans to develop operational planning and capability of these facilities into the future.</p>
<p>20.02 Animal Disease Investigation Course (Biosecurity Victoria, DEECA)</p> <p>To deliver training in investigation, field, epidemiology, biosecurity and advanced necropsy techniques for Victorian veterinary practitioners.</p>	July 2023	\$26,966	Over the three years of the project a total of 106 private veterinarians and 27 animal health staff were trained in disease investigation. These attendees were from across Victoria and some from South Australia that conduct livestock work in Victoria.
<p>20.22 Victorian Significant Disease Investigation (SDI) Program (Biosecurity Victoria, DEECA)</p> <p>To enhance the capacity for early detection and control of diseases in livestock that could impact human health, animal health, farm productivity and</p>	August 2023	\$206,063	Between 1 July 2020 and 30 June 2023, the SDI program facilitated 489 cattle disease investigations by private veterinary practitioners which included 195 investigations that excluded an emergency animal disease across Victoria.

Project (Recipient)	Project Completed	Total CCF contribution	Outcomes
market access and trade.			
<p>22.01 On Farm Disposal Tool (Biosecurity Victoria, DEECA)</p> <p>To develop a self-assessment tool to assist farmers in identifying suitable on farm disposal options as part of biosecurity planning.</p>	September 2023	\$16,000	<p>AgVic and the Environment Protection Authority have co-developed a tool to help farmers plan for and respond to an emergency animal disease outbreak where large numbers of carcasses need to be buried and can be done so on farm. This tool can be used by farmers to update their biosecurity plans about if, where and how carcasses can be buried on their properties if necessary.</p>
<p>21.15 Truck wash and effluent disposal review (Biosecurity Victoria, DEECA)</p> <p>To enhance biosecurity measures in the Victorian livestock industry by reviewing the existing state-wide network of publicly accessible truck wash and effluent dump facilities.</p>	January 2024	\$69,434	<p>The report addresses:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Relevant trends and prospects in livestock industries 2. Demand and need for truck washing services and gaps in existing network of facilities 3. Need for additional facilities: number, their location(s) and infrastructure requirements 4. Relevant Environment Protection Authority (EPA) guidelines and regulations on effluent management 5. Indicative current costs of constructing and operating a new facility 6. Likely steps needed to improve truck washing in the event of a disease outbreak (noting the difficulty in prescribing specific or effective requirements for the wide range of possible individual disease outbreaks)

Project (Recipient)	Project Completed	Total CCF contribution	Outcomes
			<p>7. A financial analysis of the capacity of a well-located new truck wash facility to be a profitable investment and self-supporting (or a commercial operation)</p> <p>8. Next steps in further exploring viable options to improve the truck wash network in Victoria.</p>
<p>22.17 Optimal outcomes for Victoria during a FMD incursion (Biosecurity Victoria, DEECA)</p> <p>Risk Management planning for a possible FMD incursion. Assessment of vaccinate-to-die versus vaccinate-to-live policies.</p>	NA	\$0	Project withdrawn from LBF grant program. Alternate funding sourced and \$75,000 approved reallocated to CCF.
<p>22.22 Improving antimicrobial susceptibility testing for cattle (Agriculture Victoria Research, DEECA)</p> <p>Accurate identification of the disease-causing pathogen and determining its antimicrobial susceptibility.</p>	December 2024	\$7,426	Accurate identification of disease-causing pathogens and determining their antimicrobial susceptibility is critical for managing bacterial infections in animals. In Australia, the veterinary diagnostic laboratories utilise different methods for culture, identification, and antimicrobial susceptibility testing (AST) which means the data cannot be accurately compared to support diagnostics, disease treatment and antimicrobial resistance (AMR) traceability. The use of well characterised automated systems customised for Australia will provide meaningful data to

Project (Recipient)	Project Completed	Total CCF contribution	Outcomes
			<p>accurately measure AMR. Standardisation of these methods will allow for benchmarking of AMR both within the state and nationally and facilitate the reduction of AMR in the livestock industry.</p> <p>This project enabled the implementation and development of an AST approach using the Sensititre system, within the Veterinary Diagnostic Bacteriology Laboratory (VDBL). Sensititre plates, used to determine the antimicrobial susceptibility of bacteria taken from cattle, were evaluated to determine their suitability for cattle in Victoria and Australia. The Sensititre system is used worldwide, as such the plates are not specifically designed to cover the Australian veterinary prescribing guidelines. To improve the efficiency and economy of the Sensititre approach for cattle we have collated information on the bacterial species and antimicrobial agents used in the cattle industry to design an Australian bovine Sensititre plate.</p> <p>Through the established collaborative linkages made during this project with the Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute (EMAI) New South Wales Department of Primary Industries (DPI) and Queensland Biosecurity Sciences Laboratory (BSL) DPI a consistency of approach is being</p>

Project (Recipient)	Project Completed	Total CCF contribution	Outcomes
			<p>achieved and standardised between the laboratories. Bacterial reference collections have been established and will be shared for use as quality control strains and proficiency testing by Australian laboratories. A design of antimicrobials for inclusion in an Australian bovine Sensititre plate has been drafted and will pave the way for a more economical and targeted national approach to cattle AST.</p> <p>Significant advancements were made in this project towards standardisation and harmonisation of AST between states. The use of the Sensititre system will ensure the industry has knowledge and accurate and comparable AMR data that will aid in the determination of the baseline of AMR in bovine bacteria both within the state and nationally and will be critical for passive surveillance of AMR for the cattle industry.</p>
<p>20.20 VFF Producer-Led Biosecurity Extension Program (Victorian Farmers Federation)</p> <p>To increase producer adoption of practices that improve on-farm biosecurity and animal health in Victoria</p>	<p>December 2024</p>	<p>\$975,142.25</p>	<p>In 2022, Stock Sense directly engaged over 300 producers through 17 regionally based face-to face workshops.</p> <p>Also in 2022:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Webinar registrations reached 61, with 35 online participants. Of the 5 cattle specific targeted workshops there were 65 registrations with a total of 50 participants.

Project (Recipient)	Project Completed	Total CCF contribution	Outcomes
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 Peri-urban workshops were hosted in 2022 with a total of 45 participants. • 2 supply chain workshops saw 14 attendees. <p>In 2023, a total of 20 Stock Sense events were held 5 cattle, 5 sheep and goat, 5 peri urban, 2 supply chain training, 3 webinars and 5 field days.</p> <p>Also in 2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 network groups were established. • Peri Urban welcome packs, distributed at all workshops and supplied to local councils at their request. <p>In 2024, the VFF received and average of 177 registrations per webinar, with 764 people attending across the 12 webinars hosted.</p> <p>Also in 2024:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 408 registrations were received for workshops in 2024 with 300 attendees • VFF Stock Sense has delivered 14 Workshops and events throughout Victoria in 2024. <p>Release of Owing Livestock Starter Pack – Cattle</p>
<p>20.15 NLIS Cattle Tag Subsidy (Biosecurity Victoria, DEECA)</p>	<p>Mar 2024</p>	<p>\$4,146,371</p>	<p>Tags bought in January 2021 to December 2023.</p> <p>Continued assistance of Victorian cattle producers with</p>

Project (Recipient)	Project Completed	Total CCF contribution	Outcomes
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.			the identification of cattle using NLIS system tags and ensuring maintenance of the disease-free status of Victoria's beef and dairy herds.

Background

Cattle Compensation Fund

Victoria's Cattle Compensation Fund (CCF) is established under the Act and is funded from duty collected on the sale of cattle, calves or cattle carcasses.

The CCF received \$0.05 duty for every \$20 or part of \$20 of the sale price of every head of cattle sold singly, or for the total amount of the sale price for any number of cattle sold in one lot. The maximum duty for any one head of cattle (sold singly or as part of a lot) is \$5.00.

Each cattle carcass weighing up to and including 250kg attracts a duty of \$0.90. Each carcass weighing more than 250g attracts a duty of \$1.30.

The duty on calves (any cattle less than six weeks of age) is \$0.15 a head.

Cattle includes bulls, cows, oxen, steer, heifers, bison and buffalo.

The Act sets out how the money in the CCF may be used. This is generally for projects and programs that benefit the Victorian cattle industry, compensation for specified endemic diseases and administration of the CCF.

All expenditure from the funds require approval from the Minister for Agriculture, after considering the advice from the 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 fund projects and programs that prevent, monitor, and control diseases, thereby enhancing animal health, biosecurity and market access for the benefit of Victorian cattle, sheep, goat, swine and honey bee industries.

Livestock Biosecurity Funds Grant Program funds are used for projects producing outcomes, consistent with the Act, which demonstrates 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 of the funds has a statement of strategic intent, outlining areas for investment and outcomes within the purpose and objectives of the Act. These are included in the Guidelines each year.


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 6 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 Farmers 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 Director of Harper Agriculture, providing expertise to the red meat processing sector across all facets of the supply chain. Jemma spent a number of years working for Australia's red meat processing industry's Research and Development (R&D) organisation.
- **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 also contributed to the ethical conduct of research involving livestock and wildlife surveys in Australia, and is a Chair/Member of a number of animal ethics committees.

Previous membership

- Ron Harris (Chairperson) – Cattle Industry
- Michael McCormack (member) – Cattle Industry
- Lachlan Sutherland (member) – Cattle Industry

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- Liz Summerville (member) – Livestock Agents
 - Claire House (member) – Meat Processing Industry
 - Jenny O’Sullivan (member) – Department Nominee