Cattle  
Compensation   
Fund

Summary of Projects   
2015-16

# Cattle Compensation Fund overview

Victoria's Cattle Compensation Fund is established under the *Livestock Disease Control Act 1994*. The fund collects livestock duties paid on the sale of cattle or calves or their carcasses in Victoria.

The Cattle Compensation Fund receives $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.

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

The Minister for Agriculture may make payments from the Cattle Compensation Fund (the Fund) from:

1. the capital of the Fund for administering the provisions of the *Livestock Disease Control Act 1994* relating to cattle or of any other Act administered by the Minister that requires the identification of cattle; and
2. interest earned on money from the Fund for programs and projects for the benefit of the cattle industry in Victoria.

The Minister for Agriculture must not make a payment from the fund unless the Minister has considered any relevant recommendations from the Cattle Compensation Advisory Committee (CCAC).

**Committee members**

The CCAC has been established to provide advice to the Minister for Agriculture on diseases for which compensation should be payable, the maximum amount of compensation that is payable, payments which should be made and any other matter referred to it by the Minister.

Under Section 79 (3) of *Livestock Disease Control Act 1994* the CCAC comprises six members appointed by the Minister as follows:

1. three are to be persons with suitable qualifications and experience relating to the cattle industry;
2. one is to be a person with suitable qualifications and experience relating to the livestock agents profession;
3. one is to be a person with suitable qualifications and experience relating to the meat processing industry; and
4. one is to be a person nominated by the Secretary.

***TABLE 1: Cattle Compensation Fund Advisory Committee membership***

| **Representation** | **Representative** |
| --- | --- |
| Victorian Farmers Federation | Mr Chris Wallace-Smith (Chair)  Mr Ian Feldtmann, Livestock Group  Ms Faye Tuchtan, Livestock Group |
| Australian Livestock & Property Agents | Ms Liz Summerville, Southern Regional Manager |
| Australian Meat Industry Council | Ms Angelique Raspin, Australian Lamb (Colac) Pty Ltd – Group QA Manager |
| State Government | Ms Cassandra Meagher, Executive Director, Agriculture Victoria |

**2015-16 Year in review**

## Combined Funding of the Cattle Compensation Fund and the Sheep and Goat Compensation Fund

In 2015-16 the Cattle Compensation Fund and the Sheep and Goat Compensation Fund jointly funded eight projects.

***TABLE 2: Projects jointly funded between Cattle Compensation Fund and Sheep and Goat Compensation Fund (50:50)***

| Project | Objective | Administered by | Fund use | 2015-16 budget |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Disease investigation training for veterinary practitioners | Deliver training in animal disease investigation that will increase the knowledge, competency and capacity of private veterinarians to conduct a thorough and effective disease investigation in livestock. | Agriculture Victoria | Training and development | $70,000 |
| Local area networks for Disease Investigation (LANDI) | * Establish groups of local sheep and beef producers throughout Victoria with the aim of obtaining reliable livestock disease information from producer groups and reporting this information to Agriculture Victoria in a timely manner. * Enhance Victoria’s ability to detect emergency or emerging animal diseases quickly. * Assist to train veterinarians, veterinary students and producers in relevant aspects of farm biosecurity and livestock health. | University of Melbourne | Information sharing | $120,000 |
| Enhanced livestock pathology services | * Enable more pathology investigations from LANDI to be processed through the University of Melbourne’s Faculty of Veterinary and Agricultural Sciences at Werribee. * Provide enhanced training to veterinary students in the diagnosis and pathology of diseases of sheep, goats and cattle. * Provide better training to junior veterinary pathologists by increasing the caseload of material from food producing ruminants. | University of Melbourne | Training subsidised investigations | $60,000 |
| Johne’s disease market assurance Program (MAP) operational support | * Provide operational support to the national Johne’s disease Market Assurance Programs, including administrative activities and program coordination. | Agriculture Victoria | Information and support for producers | $100,000 |
| Significant disease investigations (including anthrax investigations) | * Provide financial subsidies to cattle producers to offset the cost of engaging a private veterinarian to undertake an investigation of a significant disease event. * Encourage private veterinarians to investigate and report significant disease events. | Agriculture Victoria | Information gathering and support for producers | $150,000 |
| **VFF livestock project officers (animal health and biosecurity extension) project** | * Deliver key animal health and biosecurity messages to all Victorian sheep meat, wool, goat and beef producers with a focus on endemic disease that impact farm profitability, animal welfare and Victoria’s biosecurity status. This includes the provision of educational workshops for all producers; develop and/or distribute related industry materials including VFF online resources to the farming community; and act as a point of contact for any animal health and biosecurity questions. | Victorian Farmers Federation | VFF extension activities with producers | $300,000 |
| **VFF policy development and livestock industry network project** | * Contribute to policy development at a state and national level in relation to biosecurity and welfare, particularly in the context of welfare/management standards, disease surveillance, endemic disease control and emergency animal disease preparations. * Maintain industry networks at producer and national levels to facilitate the effective communication of information, particularly in the context of natural disasters and emergency disease response, the maintenance of appropriate biosecurity and livestock management standards. * Represent Victoria’s livestock health and welfare interests at a national level. | Victorian Farmers Federation | VFF policy development | $220,000 |
| **Q fever abattoir seroprevalence study** | * Estimate the prevalence of Q fever among Victorian cattle, sheep and goats. * Identify regions of increased risk and estimate prevalence of recent exposure amongst animals from Victorian farms at abattoirs in three different locations. * Identify risk factors and inform planning of future control activities. | University of Melbourne | Research and development | $50,000 |

**Cattle Compensation projects funded**

In 2015-16 the Cattle Compensation Fund funded nine projects.

### *TABLE 3: Projects funded by the Cattle Compensation Fund*

| Project | Objective | Administered by | Funded by | 2015-16 budget |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Anthrax vaccine and veterinarian costs** | * Provide a financial incentive to ensure that producers with livestock on affected land vaccinate against anthrax in a timely manner. | Agriculture Victoria | Producer subsidies | $10,200 |
| **Bovine johne’s disease (BJD) test and control program (TCP3)** | * Provide a voluntary on-farm program to improve the status of herds infected with cattle herds infected with Johne’s disease and support administration of the program by Agriculture Victoria on behalf of the cattle industry. | **Agriculture Victoria** | **Subsidy and support to producers** | **$367,200** |
| **Can cattle survive anthrax exposure?** | * Evaluate a commercially available serological test for anthrax in cattle. | **Agriculture Victoria** | **Research and development** | **$45,000** |
| **Creating better tools for defining and tracking emerging diseases in cattle** | * Improve detection and diagnosis of emerging diseases in cattle by creating a single multiplex PCR test for five cattle respiratory pathogens, and creating a real-time PCR test to investigate avermectin resistance in Ostertagia in cattle. | **Agriculture Victoria** | **Research and Development** | **$27,000** |
| **Enhanced calf management outcomes** | * Investigate and enhance the calf management systems on dairy farms. | **Dairy Australia** | **Research and development** | **$100,000** |
| **Field assessment of the efficacy of silirum vaccine in two dairy herds infected with BJD** | * Continue on with the large scale randomised, controlled clinical trial commenced in June 2005 to assess the efficacy of Silirum™ Vaccine in two seasonal calving dairy herds endemically infected with *Mycobacterium avium* subsp *paratuberculosis*. This application is proposed to allow the continuation of the study, albeit in a less intensive manner, through continued monitoring of animals greater than 15 months old by faecal culture once a year for another 3 years. | **Zoetis** | **Research and development** | **$20,455** |
| **Knackery surveillance project** | * Describe the wastage of Victorian cattle, perform surveillance for emergency animal diseases, and improve Agriculture Victoria staff capability in field necropsy and gross pathology skills. | **Agriculture Victoria** | **Information gathering and support for producers** | **$200,000** |
| **Maintenance of NLIS (cattle) in Victoria** | * Ensure that at least 98% of cattle processed in Victorian abattoirs are ‘lifetime traceable’ and to ensure that serious compliance issues are investigated in a timely and effective manner. | **Agriculture Victoria** | **Co-contribution for enforcement of NLIS cattle** | **$300,000** |
| **Prevalence of the FMD look-alike, bovine papular stomatitis virus, in Victorian cattle** | * Create an assay for Bovine Papular Stomatitis virus and similar viruses, and gain an understanding of prevalence of the viruses particularly in the dairy industry. | **Agriculture Victoria** | **Research and development** | **$44,000** |

