

Biosecurity verification: Supporting farms and auditors to provide assurance to regulators and other stakeholders in an EAD outbreak

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Overview

- What is biosecurity verification?
- The value and challenges of verification
- PIRSA-Pork SA Project
- The role of veterinarians (as an example)
- Take home messages



Biosecurity verification

- The backbone of EAD preparedness
- Process to establish accuracy, validity or truth
- APL administers and verifies APIQ
- Defines management, food safety, welfare, environmental, traceability and biosecurity standards
- Why is verification so important to government and other stakeholders?

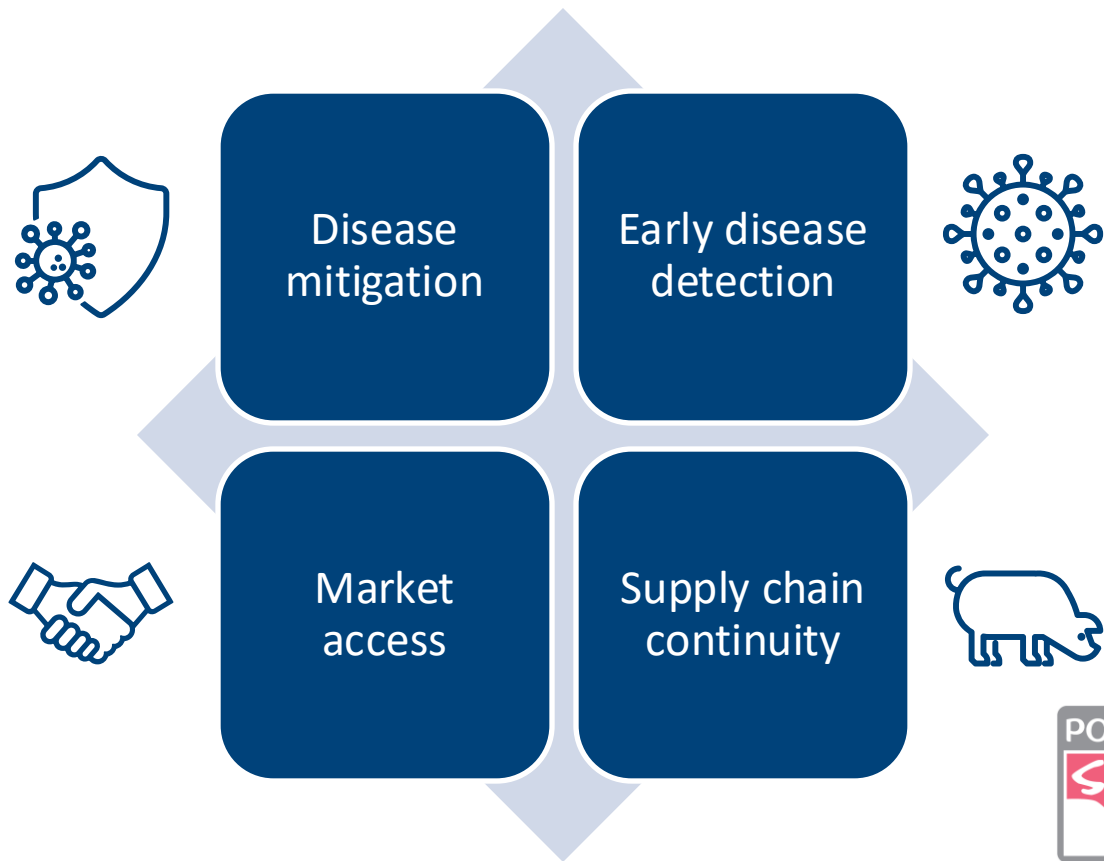
The Importance of Biosecurity



Image source: Faster Capital.



The value of verification



The challenges of verification



Verification to support supply chain continuity

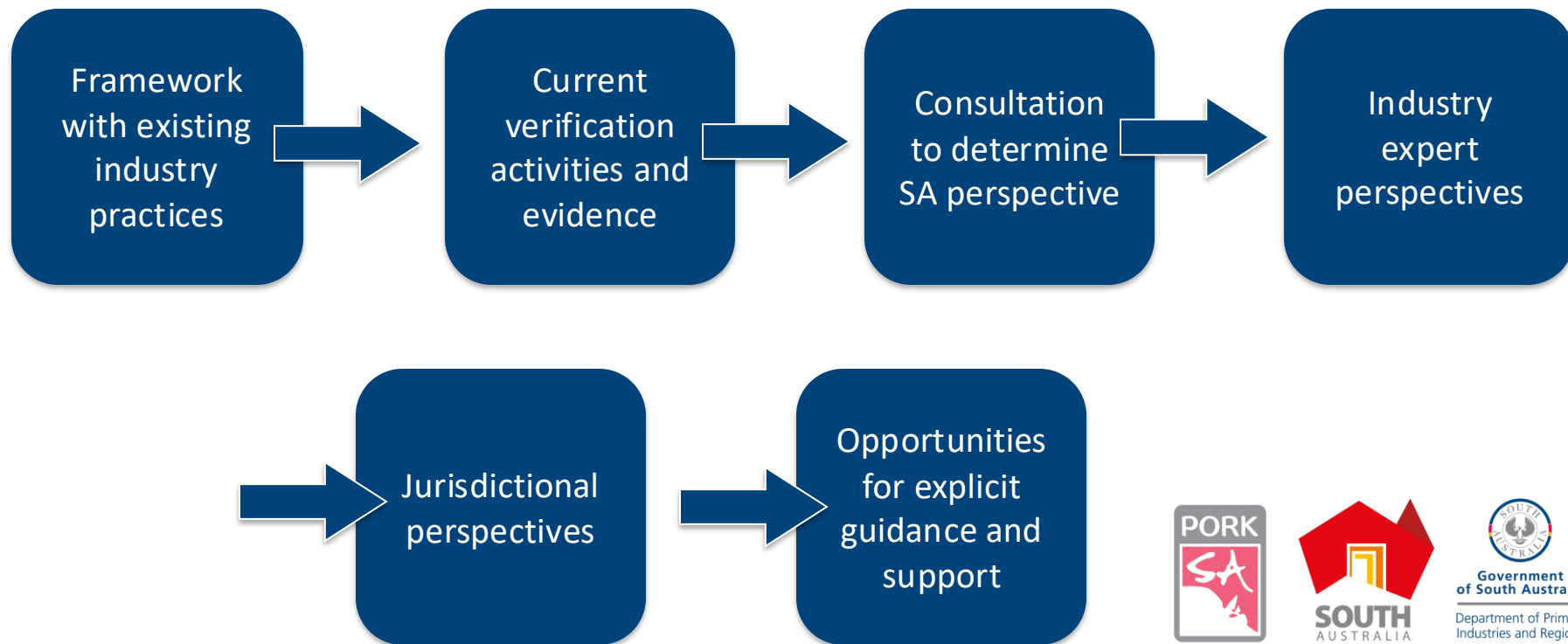
- PIRSA-Pork SA project
- Provide clarity on the rigor of practice and evidence for biosecurity verification to underpin assurance of regulators and stakeholders

Why

- VEBS-ASF includes biosecurity standards and performance indicators to reduce ASF risk
- Explicit guidance on verification expectation was limited, making it difficult for producers and auditors to implement and audit, and for regulators to have clarity and draw assurance from



Verification to support supply chain continuity



Next steps

- Work in progress - consultation with key stakeholders including APL
- Development of tools to support producer verification, ease of auditing and provision of assurance to regulators and other stakeholders
- Action other opportunities identified during the project

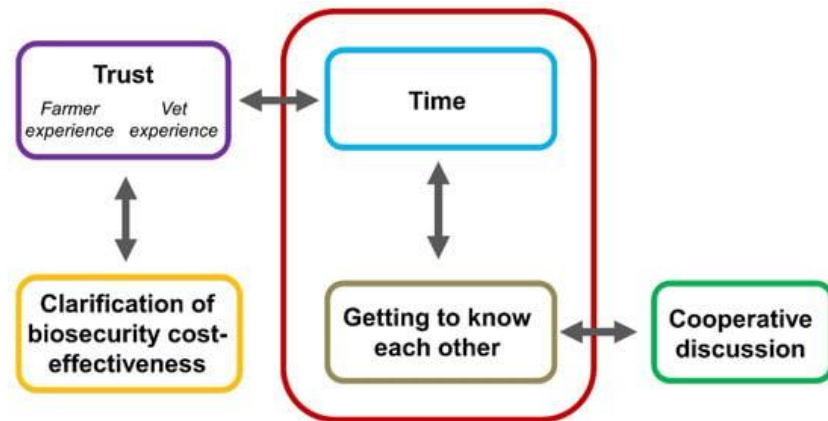


Image source: AgCommunicators.



The role of veterinarians

- Important role in standards
- Involvement of vets in farm biosecurity supports assurances
- Project identified key areas where veterinary involvement can be made easier
 - Existing involvement
 - Guidance for verification
 - Suggested involvement



Factors within a vet-farmer relationship that may impact farm biosecurity (Grant, Buchanan, Brennan 2023).



Existing veterinary involvement

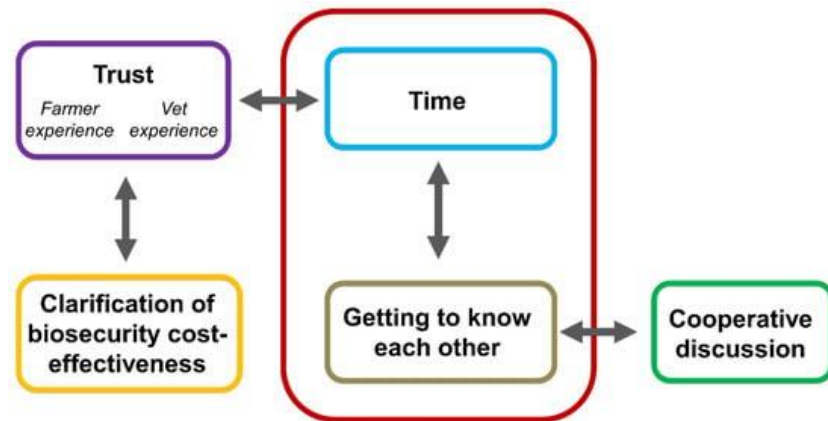
- Aggregated areas with existing veterinarian involvement
- Assurance of expertise to support risk mitigation
- Supports clear and auditable verification for producers and veterinarians

Existing areas requiring veterinary authorisation or oversight

- Biosecurity management plan
- Plan for collection of samples in an EAD
- Biosecurity entry protocols
- Vehicle washing and when required, disinfection
- Protocols for introduced pigs
- Herd health plan
- Load-out plan
- Entry protocols for people recently returned from overseas
- Waste management plan
- Feed delivery plan

The role of veterinarians

- Important role in standards themselves
- Involvement of vets in farm biosecurity supports assurances
- Project identified key areas where veterinary involvement can be made easier
 - Existing involvement
 - Guidance for verification
 - Suggested involvement
- Opportunity to advocate for your clients
- Applicable nationally



Factors within a vet-farmer relationship that may impact farm biosecurity (Grant, Buchanan, Brennan 2023).



Take home messages

- Biosecurity verification requires support of veterinarians
- Contributes to assurances for supply chain continuity during an EAD
- Advocate for your clients through involvement and oversight of biosecurity
- Sharing the verification perspective of SA regulators through industry engagement



Thank you

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Biosecurity

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