



EAD Vet Wrap - Issue 8

Issue 8 | May 2025 | Quarterly Newsletter

Welcome to the Eighth Edition of the Emergency Animal Disease (EAD) Vet Wrap quarterly newsletter.



This newsletter aims to keep veterinary professionals up to date with EAD preparedness activities of the Animal Biosecurity unit, NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and provide updates on what is happening in our state and on Australia's borders.

The NSW Government's commitment to EAD prevention and preparedness activities reflects the significance of animal industries to our state's economic livelihood. Preparation and timely responses are key to avoiding or limiting the impact of an EAD.

Veterinary professionals play a pivotal frontline role in helping to protect NSW animal industries. Not only providing veterinary services to owners but educating them on animal health and good biosecurity practices to prevent disease introduction, establishment and spread.

EAD Situation Update

Each quarter we provide an update on the status of EADs that are occurring in our neighbouring countries

Please use the following key when interpreting the outbreak and event maps in this newsletter



1 - Outbreak and event map key

Image: World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) (2025). - WAHIS [Country dashboard]. Retrieved on 18/02/25 from <https://wahis.woah.org/#/dashboards/country-or-disease-dashboard>. Screenshot by LRush/NSW DPIRD. Reproduced with permission. The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) bears no responsibility for the integrity or accuracy of the data contained herein, but not limited to, any deletion, manipulation, or reformatting of data that may have occurred beyond its control

Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) status (22 May 2025):

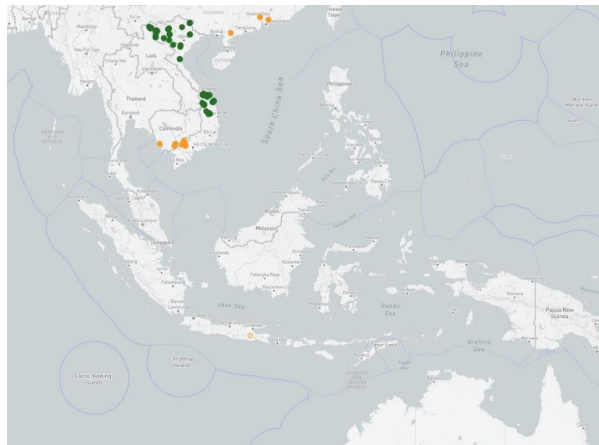
There have been no reported cases of FMD in Australia, Timor Leste or Papua New Guinea. FMD was reported in Indonesia on 9 May 2022.

Indonesia reported a recurrence of FMD in the Pujon Administrative division in January 2025 in domestic cattle with 28 deaths and 2085 animals vaccinated.

Eswatini (Southern Africa) and Zimbabwe have both reported a recurrence of an eradicated disease in May and April 2025 respectively. Turkey reported a recurrence of an eradicated strain in April this year.

Status in Indonesia as of **6 December 2024**:

- 628, 391 reported cases.
- This is an **increase of 723** reported cases since Issue 5 of the EAD vet wrap newsletter (published September 2024)



2 - FMD Outbreak locations as of 21/05/25 -

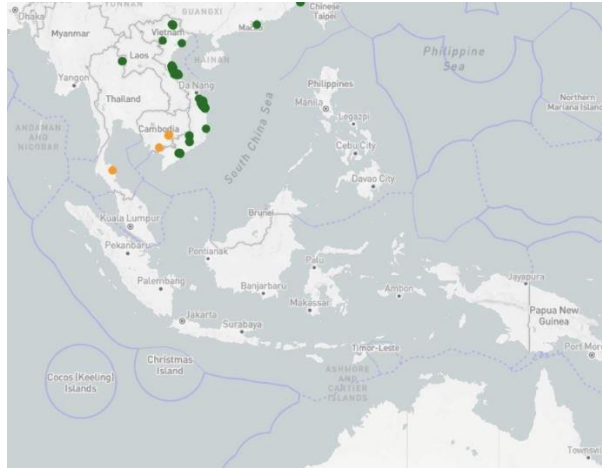
Image: World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) (2025). - WAHIS [Country dashboard]. Retrieved on 21/05/25 from <https://wahis.woah.org/#/dashboards/country-or-disease-dashboard>. Screenshot by LRush/NSW DPIRD. Reproduced with permission. The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) bears no responsibility for the integrity or accuracy of the data contained herein, but not limited to, any deletion, manipulation, or reformatting of data that may have occurred beyond its control

Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) status (26 February 2025):

There have been no reported cases of LSD in Australia, Timor Leste or Papua New Guinea. LSD was reported in Indonesia on 2 March 2022.

Status in Indonesia as of **6 December 2024**:

- 83, 568 reported cases.
- This is an **increase of 3,809** reported cases since Issue 5 of the EAD vet wrap newsletter (published September 2024)



3 - LSD Outbreak locations as of 21/05/25 -

Image: World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) (2025). - WAHIS [Country dashboard]. Retrieved on 21/05/25 from <https://wahis.woah.org/#/dashboards/country-or-disease-dashboard>. Screenshot by LRush/NSW DPIRD. Reproduced with permission. The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) bears no responsibility for the integrity or accuracy of the data contained herein, but not limited to, any deletion, manipulation, or reformatting of data that may have occurred beyond its control

High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (HPAI) status:

VIC (5 May 2025)

H7 avian influenza (bird flu) was confirmed at 4 poultry properties in northern Victoria near Euroa in February 2025.

It is a high pathogenicity strain of H7N8. This outbreak is not related to the 2024 outbreaks in Victoria, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory, which were successfully eradicated.

This is not the H5N1 bird flu strain detected in other parts of the world.

From Monday 28 April, restrictions will only apply within a new 5 km control area around the four affected properties in Euroa. Townships still impacted by restrictions include Euroa and parts of Longwood.

There has been no new disease detected since 24 February 2025 and decontamination of the affected premises is in the final stages, with sentinel chicken placement underway. The sentinel chickens will be tested for disease regularly and if clear, further restocking can begin.

This progress is a significant step towards establishing Victoria's freedom from high pathogenicity avian influenza.

There are no movement controls on birds, bird products (including eggs and manure) and poultry equipment, and no restrictions on game bird hunting and hunters, outside the new control area.

The housing requirement for premises with 50 or more birds is lifted. The voluntary housing of birds is still encouraged.

For further updates on the situation in VIC see their website - [High pathogenicity avian influenza \(HPAI\) | Current biosecurity alerts | Vetsource | Animal diseases | Biosecurity | Agriculture Victoria](#)

AI is a nationally notifiable disease meaning any bird or mammal showing signs of disease consistent with AI must be reported immediately via the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888, or report via our [online form](#).

Global status (April 2025)

For the month of April 2025, the Americas, Asia and Europe reported:

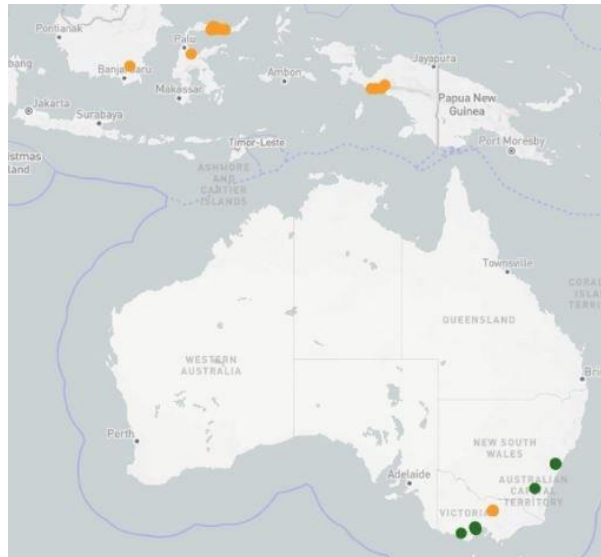
- 59 outbreaks of HPAI in poultry across 8 countries
- 44 outbreaks in non-poultry birds and mammals across 15 countries and territories
- Approximately 3.76 million poultry birds were culled or died during the month with the majority of these in Asia

The total number of outbreaks in mammals and wild birds has decreased in comparison to March 2025.

WOAH has published a case definition for reporting "*infection of bovines (*Bos taurus*) with influenza A viruses of high pathogenicity in poultry*" - further details can be read here: [Case definition](#)

On the 17th April 2025 WOA, the FAO and WHO published an updated version of the joint assessment of recent influenza A(H5) virus events in animals and people. 979 dairy cattle herds across 15 states in the USA have tested positive for A(H5N1) as of 1 March 2025. California has seen a significant increase in confirmed outbreaks in dairy cattle reaching a total of 383 herds since the disease was first detected in the state in August 2024. The assessment states that even though transmission between animals continues, the public health risk of influenza A(H5) at a global level is considered low.

The full assessment can be found here - [Updated joint FAO/WHO/WOAH public health assessment of recent influenza A\(H5\) virus events in animals and people](#)



4 - HPAI Outbreak locations as of 21/05/25

Image: World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) (2025). - WAHIS [Country dashboard]. Retrieved on 21/05/25 from <https://wahis.woah.org/#/dashboards/country-or-disease-dashboard>. Screenshot by LRush/NSW DPIRD. Reproduced with permission. The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) bears no responsibility for the integrity or accuracy of the data contained herein, but not limited to, any deletion, manipulation, or reformatting of data that may have occurred beyond its control

African Swine Fever (ASF) status (April 2025):

African Swine Fever (ASF) has been reported as the first occurrence in 12 countries since January 2022, with 11 countries reporting the spread of ASF to new zones. Since January 2022, 64 countries and territories have reported the presence of ASF and have seen the loss of approximately 2,080,000 domestic pigs.

During April 2025 two European countries, Moldova and Ukraine, reported new ASF events and 11 countries in Europe updated ongoing events. In Europe 27 new outbreaks in domestic pigs were reported and 431 outbreaks in wild boar; there were 556 domestic pig animal losses.

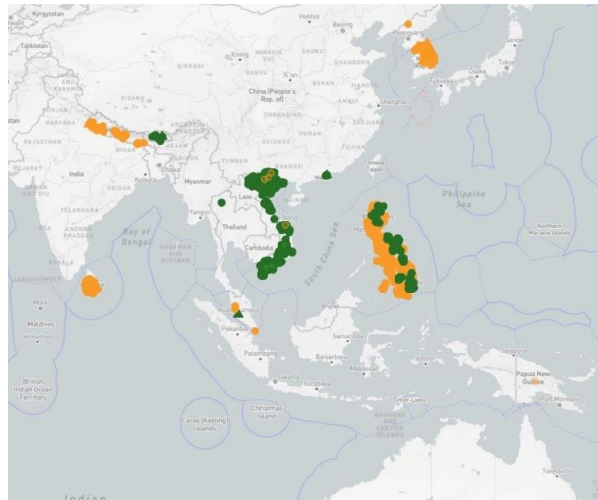
High standards of biosecurity and surveillance remain important to limit the spread of ASF, April 2025 saw 19 outbreaks reported to be more than 10km outside of previously affected areas. Ukraine in particular reported an ASF 'jump' of approximately 40km from the closest previously reported outbreaks.

	Outbreaks		Cases		Losses*
	Domestic pigs	Wild boar	Domestic pigs	Wild boar	Domestic pigs
Africa	792	6	102,710		92,356
Americas	65	0	467		9,412
Asia	6,121	107	305,588	540	537,347
Europe	4,581	21,688	563,048	34,586	1,440,015
Oceania	0	0	0	0	0
Total	11,559	21,801	971,813	35,126	2,079,130

5 - Summary of the number of outbreaks, cases and animal losses caused by ASF in the different world regions since January 2022.

Source: World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) (2025). Retrieved on 21/05/25 from <https://www.woah.org/app/uploads/2025/05/asf-report-64.pdf>. Screenshot by LRush/NSW DPIRD. Reproduced with permission. The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) bears no responsibility for the integrity or accuracy of the

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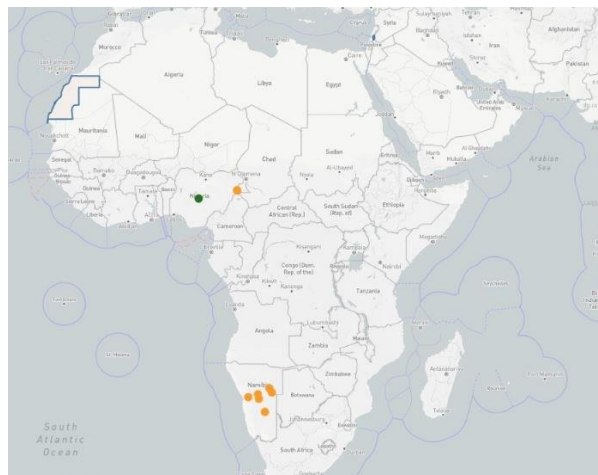


6 - ASF Outbreak locations as of 21/05/25

Image: World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) (2025). - WAHIS [Country dashboard]. Retrieved on 21/05/25 from <https://wahis.woah.org/#/dashboards/country-or-disease-dashboard>. Screenshot by LRush/NSW DPIRD. Reproduced with permission. The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) bears no responsibility for the integrity or accuracy of the data contained herein, but not limited to, any deletion, manipulation, or reformatting of data that may have occurred beyond its control

African Horse Sickness (AHS) status (14 May 2025):

African horse sickness (AHS) has been reported in Namibia for the first time since 2021 when it was last detected in the country. This outbreak has seen 21 domestic horses die so far, with 29 horses testing positive and 35,677 susceptible to infection.



7 - AHS Outbreak locations as of 21/05/25

Image: World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) (2025). - WAHIS [Country dashboard]. Retrieved on 21/05/25 from <https://wahis.woah.org/#/dashboards/country-or-disease-dashboard>. Screenshot by LRush/NSW DPIRD. Reproduced with permission. The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) bears no responsibility for the integrity or accuracy of the data contained herein, but not limited to, any deletion, manipulation, or reformatting of data that may have occurred beyond its control

NSW disease watch

NSW has already seen several disease outbreaks across the state this year. With constantly changing environmental conditions and increasing global transport and trade, disease outbreaks in NSW are expected to occur more frequently.

Aquatic Responses

White spot detection in NSW wild-caught school prawns

In March 2025, NSW DPIRD detected white spot syndrome virus (WSSV) in wild-caught school prawns (*Metapenaeus macleay*) in northern NSW ocean waters. The detection occurred during NSW long-term surveillance plan sampling in inshore oceanic waters adjacent to the Clarence, Evans and Richmond Rivers. The surveillance program aimed to support NSW's self-declaration of freedom under WOHAT criteria.

Over the last two years, all sampling initiatives within the rivers have returned negative results, with positive detections confined to oceanic waters.

NSW DPIRD has responded to this detection, building on the significant recovery efforts initiated after WSSV was identified in northern NSW prawn farms in February 2023. Whole genome sequencing (WGS), conducted by the Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness, confirmed that the genetic strain of WSSV detected in March 2025 is consistent with previous NSW cases from 2022 to 2024.

Biosecurity Control Orders remain in place, restricting movement of green/raw prawns and polychaete worms from the two control zones. A minor amendment to the [Clarence River Biosecurity Control Order](#) has been made to include the area of the recent detection, located approximately 6 km to the north of the existing zone boundary.

NSW DPIRD is continuing to support and work with industry in its recovery, and in informing a review of the NSW white spot management program. Future management strategies will be guided by technical evidence, industry collaboration, and ongoing national discussions.

Consumers are assured that white spot does not pose a threat to human health or food safety. NSW seafood, including prawns, remains safe to eat.

Who to call:

Commercial fisheries management: 1300 726 488

Mental health support: 1800 011 511

Articles of interest

The following are articles of interest in the EAD space internationally

Article: [New World Screwworm Outbreak in Central America](#), USDA 7 May 2025

Summary

This short article covers the outbreak of New World Screwworm (NWS) in Central America and Mexico. It has now spread north of the previous biological barrier that has successfully contained NWS to South America for decades. In response to this spread, APHIS has announced they are moving the sterile fly dispersal efforts to Mexico, the northernmost point of the outbreak.

The article covers the current status, trade restrictions and eradicating Screwworm.

Article: [Controlling the cross-border spread of livestock diseases - WOA - World Organisation for Animal Health](#) April 2025

Summary

This looks at the spread of peste des petits ruminants (PPR), managing the spread of livestock diseases and strengthening livestock disease prevention.

EAD Training and Resources

Did you know that there are many free online resources for learning more about EAD response and preparedness?

You can find a lot of these on our [training and resources](#) page. Each quarter we will highlight one of the many resources available to help you become EAD ready.

HPAI Workshops for Private Veterinarians and Veterinary Nurses

In the last few years, H5N1 avian influenza has affected populations of wild and domestic animal species globally. The disease continues to pose a risk to many threatened and protected Australian wildlife species, as well as poultry and non-poultry industries (such as the dairy industry) as well as human health. Whilst it has not yet been detected in Australia, surveillance and preparedness activities have been ongoing to ensure we are ready to mitigate the effects of an incursion in wildlife.

Why is H5N1 different to other strains of avian influenza?

The HPAI H5N1 clade 2.3.4.4b strain has been detected in wildlife on every continent other than Australia. This clade is different to every significant H5N1 that has been detected in recent history in that it infects a wide range of birds and mammals, across wild and domestic species (including infections in dairy cows, domestic cats, goats and pigs).

An incursion of H5N1 clade 2.3.4.4b in Australia has the potential to cause widespread death and disease in multiple avian species including wild birds, pet birds, commercial poultry, but may also significantly impact our native mammals, commercial mammal specials, domestic pets and zoo animals.

While NSW DPIRD and support agencies will lead the emergency response to a potential H5N1 clade 2.3.4.4b outbreak in NSW, private vets and vet nurses may be required to provide support services to their clinic staff, clients and the general public. This may include euthanasia or treatment of domestic and wildlife species which may be affected by the virus, communication about the disease (such as human health risks, use of PPE, carcass disposal) to their clients and the general public who may contact the clinic.

How you can prepare for H5N1 avian influenza

The current preparedness activities undertaken by DPIRD and other NSW agencies include ensuring that capacity and capability for detection in wildlife is maximised, by providing training to private veterinarians and nurses in wild bird handling, sampling and euthanasia. There is a particular focus on coastal regions of NSW during the shearwater migration season in Spring, as the migratory routes for these birds originate in areas where H5N1 is known to be present.

The Australian Registry for Wildlife Health and DPIRD are hosting a series of workshops in August and September in coastal areas of NSW to provide training for private veterinarians and vet nurses in handling, sampling and humane euthanasia of wild birds. The attendees will form an important part of NSW's early detection system and may be called on by DPIRD to follow up on reports of sick or dead wild birds.

If you are interested in joining a frontline group tasked with ensuring the early detection of H5N1 in NSW, we invite you to submit your expression of interest in attending a workshop near you. Please complete the EOI form at <https://forms.office.com/r/bpA0eMrUhC>.

For further information, please contact Jannene Geoghegan, Senior Policy and Projects Officer, DPIRD on 0429 943 889.

Emergency Management Capability Hub: HPAI Field Officer Training (wildlife)

This module was developed by NSW DPIRD in collaboration with:

- Australian Registry of Wildlife Health, Taronga
- One Health Branch, Health Protection NSW
- NSW Local Land Services

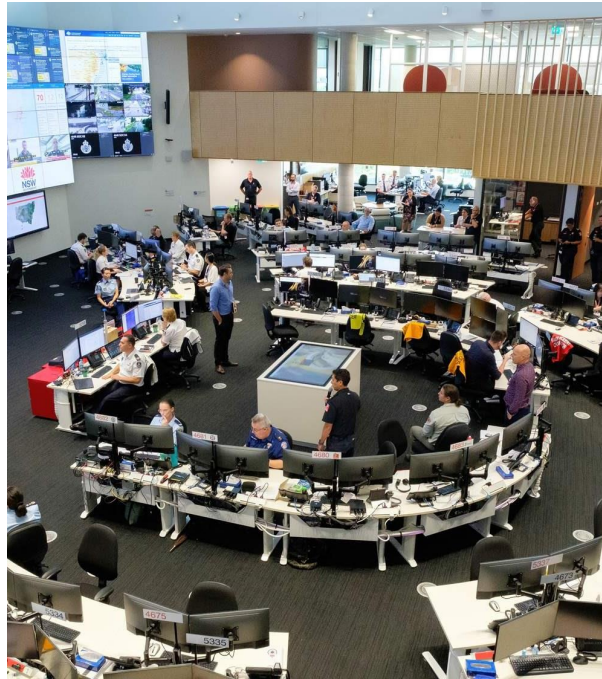
The High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza in Wildlife - Field officer training is designed to prepare and inform those that may be collecting samples from wild birds and the specific processes on sampling, submission, decontamination and disinfection. It is suitable for both veterinarians and non-veterinarians.

The module is fully online, self-paced and consists of 8 sections:

1. HPAI overview
2. Emergency management in HPAI
3. Human health considerations when handling wild birds
4. Responding to a suspected case of HPAI in wildlife
5. Sampling & packaging
6. Disposal
7. Decontamination & disinfection
8. Case scenarios & final quiz

The training can be accessed by visiting the EM Capability Hub - [HPAI Field Officer Training - Emergency Management Capability Hub](#)

Registration is free.



8 - Image: Emergency Management Capability Hub 2025

We value your feedback



NSW DPIRD wants to ensure that the information provided in this newsletter is informative and useful in updating you on current issues. If there are any topics that you would like to see included in this newsletter or information that can be explained in further detail, please let us know via an email:

biosecurity.vetinfo@dpi.nsw.gov.au