



Great Southern Cattle Surveillance Network offers up-to-date information on local animal health

Cattle producers in the shires of Albany, Denmark and Plantagenet in Western Australia now have the opportunity to join a pilot surveillance network for cattle health that uses a simple SMS system.

The pilot network aims to provide members with up-to-date information about health issues occurring in cattle in the region, while also strengthening WA's ability to detect new, emerging or exotic diseases more rapidly.

Benefits for network members

Members will receive a monthly surveillance report for the region, which will include:

- which disease syndromes have been occurring most commonly
- what is likely to be causing them, and
- what you can do about them.

These reports will allow members to make informed on-farm decisions that improve animal health and production.

Members will also benefit from:

- a strengthened animal health surveillance system that protects our cattle industry
- regular contact with local Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) vets
- increased knowledge of subsidies available for disease investigations.

If the network reports show that members are commonly reporting particular health issues, this may highlight areas that could benefit from future research.

The network also has the ability to send members a warning SMS for disease outbreaks.

Animal health surveillance in WA

WA's Great Southern region produces quality livestock for consumers across the globe. WA's animal health surveillance system helps to prove that our livestock are free from diseases and residues that could harm human health or damage our ability to sell livestock within Australia and overseas. The Great Southern Cattle Surveillance Network is designed to strengthen this system.

The network allows producers to share information across the region to strengthen disease surveillance and production as a whole. Monthly reports from the network will help producers make informed decisions about animal health on-farm.

How the pilot network operates

Network members will participate in a short series of SMS texts each fortnight asking if they have seen any new signs of illness in their cattle. A single letter yes (Y) or no (N) response by SMS is all that is required. Any member who responds Y will receive two more messages, asking what signs of illness they have observed and how many animals were affected.

Any member can request a call from their local DPIRD vet to discuss their cattle health queries. Anyone with significant reports will receive a phone call to discuss the case and see what assistance DPIRD can provide. This might include services such as subsidised disease investigations and post-mortem sampling to try to obtain a definite diagnosis.

The network does not replace timely discussion with your vet. For all veterinary emergencies, please contact your private vet, or if you suspect an emergency animal disease (EAD), call the EAD hotline on 1800 675 888.

Early investigation and diagnosis of diseases that occur on-farm can provide producers with information to help minimise production losses during the outbreak and guide future management practices to prevent the problem from occurring again.

The network is a pilot project and will be active until April 2019. The project is jointly funded by the WA Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) and the federal Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (DAWR).

How do I join the network?

Only cattle producers in the shires of Denmark, Albany and Plantagenet are eligible to join the network for this pilot project in 2018/19.

To join, email or post a completed registration form to:

- Andrew Larkins, DPIRD,
444 Albany Hwy, Albany WA 6330
andrew.larkins@dpird.wa.gov.au

or see Andrew Larkins or Sheena Smith at Mt Barker Regional Saleyards on sale days.

More information

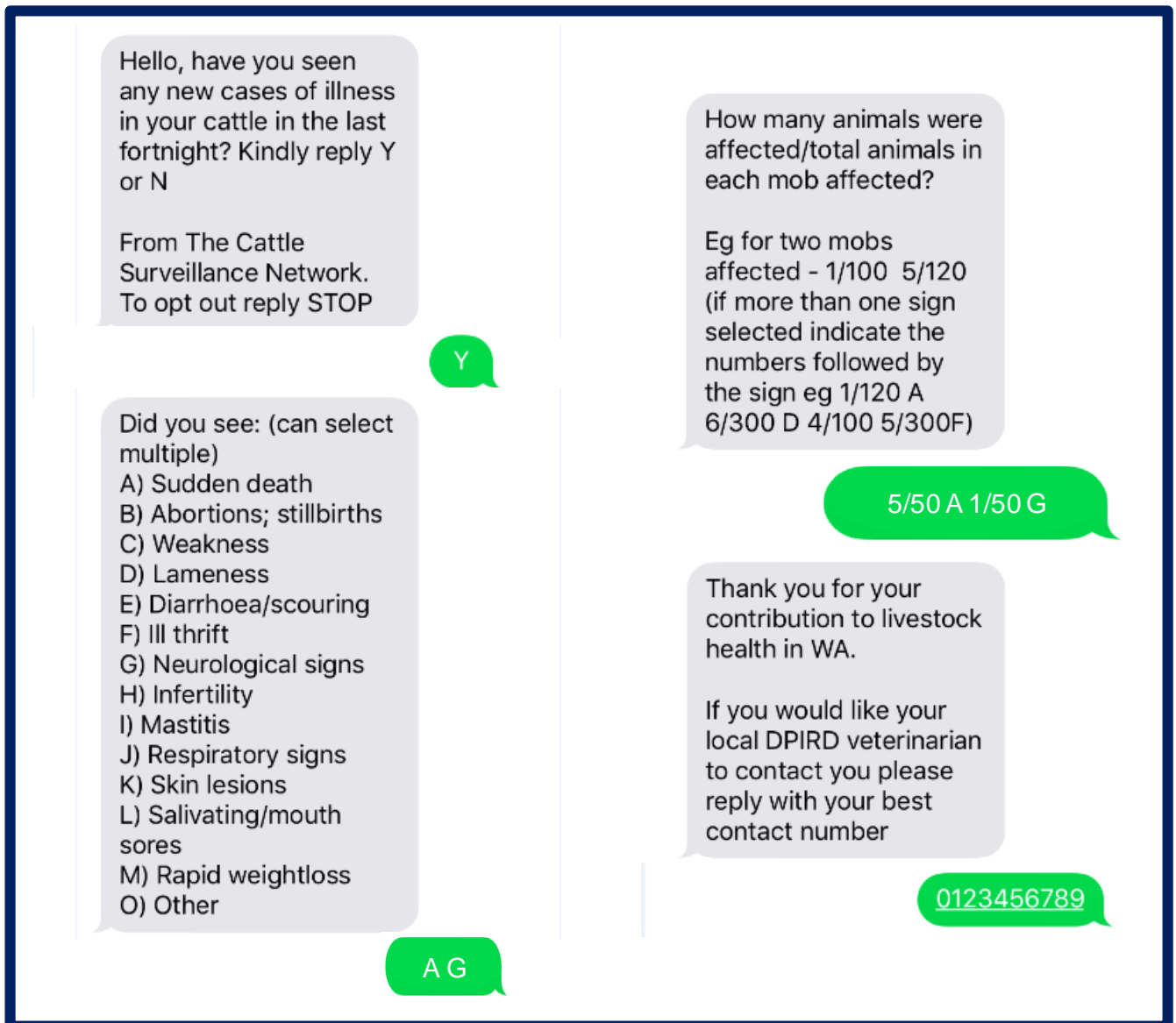
Visit agric.wa.gov.au and search 'great southern cattle surveillance',

or contact:

Andrew Larkins, DPIRD veterinary officer
Phone: 9892 8530
Email: andrew.larkins@dpird.wa.gov.au

Sheena Smith, beef producer & ag event coordinator, Narrikup
Mobile: 0427 214 707
Email: csngreatsouthern@gmail.com

Example of Great Southern Cattle Surveillance Network fortnightly SMS



Important disclaimer

The Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and the State of Western Australia accept no liability whatsoever by reason of negligence or otherwise arising from the use or release of this information or any part of it.

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