# DISEASE SURVEILLANCE

**Effective national surveillance of animal diseases in Australia requires cooperative partnerships among government agencies, livestock and wildlife organisations, commercial companies and individuals involved in animal industries.**

## AHA WORKS WITH ITS MEMBERS TO:

**Maintain Australian freedom from exotic animal diseases**

**Improve animal health and market access**

**Foster the resilience and integrity of the Australian animal health system**

Under the Australian constitution, the Australian Government is responsible for quarantine and international animal health matters, including disease surveillance reporting to the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), export certification and trade negotiation. State and territory governments are responsible for animal health services, including disease surveillance, investigation and diagnostic services, and reporting of diseases, within their respective borders (jurisdictions). They deliver their services through government-appointed or government-accredited animal health personnel – district veterinarians, regional veterinary officers and local biosecurity officers. In some cases, private veterinarians are contracted to the government to investigate suspect notifiable diseases. In all states and territories, official government veterinarians establish relationships with private veterinarians in their districts to allow effective collaboration during investigation

of unusual disease incidents. National decision making and coordination for animal disease surveillance occurs through the Animal Health Committee (AHC).

In 2016, the AHC endorsed the *National Animal Health Surveillance and Diagnostics Business Plan 2016–2019*[1], developed collaboratively by governments and livestock industries. *The Business Plan* is intended to guide the efficient and effective delivery of surveillance activities in accordance with nationally agreed objectives and priorities. It outlines priority activities that build on existing strengths and address areas for improvement in Australia's animal health surveillance and diagnostics system.

AHA members have elected for AHA to deliver several disease surveillance and monitoring programs and the National Animal Health Information System (NAHIS). Each program is managed in consultation with a steering and/or advisory committee which often includes service delivery coordinators from state and territory governments and Wildlife Health Australia. In addition to program management, AHA contributes to national surveillance enhancement through participation in several national projects and working groups.
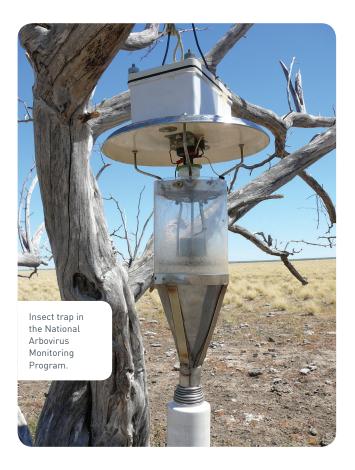
## PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

### General surveillance

- The National Significant Disease Investigation (NSDI) Program subsidises training of private veterinary practitioners in disease investigation and subsidises private veterinary practitioners to investigate significant disease incidents in livestock and wildlife.

1   **www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/what-we-do/disease-surveillance**

## Targeted surveillance and monitoring

- The National Arbovirus Monitoring Program (NAMP) monitors the distribution of economically important arboviruses (insect-borne viruses) of ruminant livestock and associated insect vectors in Australia.



Insect trap in the National Arbovirus Monitoring Program.

- The National Sheep Health Monitoring Project monitors abattoir data for sheep health conditions that reduce farm profit through productivity losses or meat processing wastage.

- The National Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies Surveillance Project demonstrates Australia's ability to meet the requirements for a bovine spongiform encephalopathies negligible-risk and classical scrapie-free country, and provide early detection of these diseases should they occur.

- The Screw-worm Fly (SWF) Surveillance and Preparedness Program includes surveillance and associated enabling activities to detect a SWF incursion early enough to ensure a high likelihood of success of an eradication program.

## National Animal Health Information System

The NAHIS is a web-based database management system enabling online submission to discrete data projects, automation of data analysis and summary, and provision of customised output reports. A subset of jurisdiction-held disease investigation data is collated nationally in NAHIS.

### OBJECTIVES OF THE NAHIS PROGRAM ARE TO:

**Collect summary data on animal health status and surveillance from the Australian, state and territory governments, and selected non-government agencies as required by AHA members**

**Manage, analyse and report data to accurately reflect Australia's animal health status as well as its surveillance and disease control activities and capabilities**

**Identify needs and priorities for collating and reporting summary animal health information and required enhancements to the NAHIS**



Adult screw-worm fly.

**For more information visit:**
www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/what-we-do/disease-surveillance