

Role description

General information

Title:	Animal Health Officer (EAD)			Classification:	PO2	
Division:	Biosecurity	Branch:	Animal Biosecurity		Business unit:	Field Operations
Type of appointment:	Ongoing	Hours of duty:	37.5	Location:	Northern/Southern Region	

About us

South Australia is internationally recognised for the quality of its agriculture, food, and wine. Our regions are the backbone of our state and the economic powerhouse that drives prosperity for all South Australians.

The Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) is a key economic development agency working in partnership with our primary industries, regional stakeholders and across all levels of government to advance the prosperity and sustainability of South Australia's primary industries and regional communities.

We are a passionate team of around 800 people working across metropolitan and regional South Australia to develop and protect our state's regions and food, wine, aquaculture, fisheries, forestry, grains, livestock, dairy and horticulture industries.

Purpose

The primary purpose of the role is to support the development of sound Emergency Animal Disease preparedness and detection services for the livestock industry in the Northern and Southern regions of the state.

The role contributes delivering the agency's [priorities](#) including providing a system for animal disease early warning and early detection of exotic diseases; assisting industry develop response plans in preparation for potential EAD incursions; ensuring compliance with government legislation and policy to minimize the risk and impact of an EAD; and to maintain capacity for emergency animal disease management.

The role contributes to delivering EAD awareness and preparedness across all sectors of the livestock industry in the Northern and Southern regions as well as providing support to district officers in the region to provide Animal Biosecurity services across all key biosecurity programs.

Key accountabilities

- Engage with the livestock industry in order to create awareness of and develop emergency animal disease preparedness plans and procedures
- Coordinating the development of specific EAD preparedness extension material and delivering awareness sessions to all relevant sectors of industry in the region
- Ensuring key stakeholders are aware of specific EAD response plans that are relevant to their enterprises and are in a position to implement action plans in the event off an EAD response
- Monitoring compliance with relevant legislation in the region and working with local animal health staff and compliance officers to address detections of non-compliance
- Managing EAD detection an awareness programs regionally on farm and at saleyards and abattoirs
- Develops regional surveillance plans for priority EAD syndromes and fosters the investigation of suspicious cases in conjunction with District vets and EAD regional vets.
- Assists with non-EAD related emergency responses and other routine disease surveillance and control work as required.

Key deliverables / results

- Assist local district staff in delivering extension and awareness sessions and field days to enhance industries EAD awareness and response capabilities
- Developing EAD action plans with saleyards abattoirs and other livestock congregation points
- Improve and increase education and compliance activities and materials for prohibited pig feeding, including education and auditing of pig producers, food retailers, manufacturers, waste disposal sites.
- Undertake regional exercises for EAD preparedness including determining suitable regional response center locations that can be commandeered and utilised as forward command posts, staging posts, checkpoints and roadblocks.
- In partnership with industry, promote improved farm biosecurity and reduced EAD entry and establishment risk. Identify and provide access to expert biosecurity advice to higher risk enterprises.
- Develop industry and region-specific EAD awareness and reporting training / preparedness material covering both disease detection, prevention, monitoring and reporting.
- Develop and implement improved PIC compliance activities with a focus on identification of unregistered FMD or LSD species owners.

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- Build relationships of trust within regional communities, including with regionally influential groups and individuals. This will improve the likelihood of being alerted early to a potential EADs.

- Contribute to the preparedness of PIRSA to respond to emergency events including participating in emergency disease response training and undertake a senior management role during an emergency event.

Relationships

- Role reports to the Manager of Field Operations
- Works closely with industry, stakeholders and other government organisations.

- Works closely with the Regional Team leader , Regional DVO (EAD) and members of the Regional Animal Health Team

Requirements

- Possession of a current driver's license and willingness to drive
- Out of hours work and inter / intrastate travel may be required
- You acknowledge your work, health and safety obligations and our expectations
- There are two roles located in the Southern and Northern Animal health regions with specific location negotiable
- As authorised officers under the Animal Welfare Act 1985, and in accordance with PIRSA Emergency Response Plans, staff will on occasion be required to euthanize livestock on humanitarian grounds using firearms or captive bolt guns. These circumstances may include emergency animal disease outbreak, vehicle incidents such as truck rollovers, and natural disasters such as floods and bushfire. As such, the incumbent will be required to have an SA firearms license (or a willingness to get one), participate in firearms training, and be prepared to euthanize livestock.
- The incumbent will be appointed, after a period of training, as an Inspector of Stock under the Livestock Act.
- The role requires a level of physical capability and fitness due to the requirements to restrain and inspect livestock and work with machinery which assist in the inspection and taking samples from livestock.
- The incumbent must be or be prepared to be vaccinated against Q fever and JEV.

Qualifications

- Essential: Degree in Agriculture, Animal Science or equivalent
- Desirable: Some field experience or previous employment within the livestock industry

Capabilities

Refer to [PIRSA's Capabilities Framework](#) for guidance. Identify a maximum of four capabilities essential to carrying out the role. Each capability should have a maximum of three behaviours, with the exception of Professional and Technical Expertise, which may include up to six behaviours. Selections can be made from PIRSA's [Capabilities Dictionary](#).

Capability [maximum 4]

Behaviours

Professional & Technical Knowledge

Demonstrates a fundamental knowledge in the key areas of professional/technical competence relevant to the role; keeps up to date

- Has in depth knowledge and grasp of all relevant aspects of animal health, animal diseases, and biosecurity issues, and provides expert professional/ technical advice to support decision making.
- Maintains an up to date knowledge of developments in animal disease surveillance, control and management,
- Identifies, analyses, evaluates and treats risks within area of responsibility to achieve outcomes.

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with relevant changes in technical knowledge relevant to the role Knowledge of the general issues facing the livestock industries, knowledge of industry movements, significant developments and affiliations within the industry; builds industry contacts.	Aware of the major issues facing the industry and the significant developments in related areas.
Communication Skills Presents own position and checks individual or group understanding through appropriate questioning and feedback; seeks affirmation and clarifies own understanding of others' positions; communicates actively and effectively in an unambiguous way	- Communicates ideas and information in a form well matched to, and well received by, staff at all levels - Puts complex technical information in a form that is clearly understood and relevant to the audience - Communicates actively accurately and effectively both verbally and in writing
Planning/Organising Sets own work priorities, uses tools (eg calendar, files, charts) and time efficiently to meet work objectives.	- Manages own time in an efficient and effective manner - Manages numerous tasks in priority order allowing sufficient time to meet deadlines - Operates within time, financial and political restraints.
Team Building/Team Work Takes an active role in the team and contributes ideas, knowledge, and suggestions when possible; works toward team goals; works collaboratively	- Actively participates in team meetings through sharing ideas and contributing to group discussion - Relates well to other team members - Keeps others informed of progress and of issues which may impact on the team

HRMS no.:		ANZCO Code:		Objective ID:	
Delegate approval:	Nathan Rhodes, Executive Director Biosecurity			Date:	22/6/23
Approved and classified by People and Culture:					

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