

## April 2020

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### COVID 19 restrictions

Remote communities in the Northern Territory have been closed to all non-essential travel in response to concerns about the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). Only **approved remote essential workers** can visit these [designated areas](#).

**Commercial primary production and operations ancillary to primary production, including aquaculture and agribusiness** have been determined to be essential activities. If you are required to deliver essential activities in designated areas, you must [apply for an approved remote essential worker status](#).

**Pastoral estates are not designated areas.** Where residents of pastoral estates and the essential workers operating there have to pass through designated areas in order to gain access to pastoral leases, they do not have to complete the designated area compliance form at biosecurity checkpoints but must provide

- a letter from the station manager or owner which identifies you are living or working on the pastoral estate or other proof of residence such as a driver's licence, to identify and prove that they are a resident or worker of the pastoral lease and
- a form of personal identification such as a driver's licence.

For more information go to [www.coronavirus.nt.gov.au](http://www.coronavirus.nt.gov.au)



Help  
**save  
our  
bacon**

### African swine fever

African swine fever is a contagious viral disease of pigs, which is spreading rapidly across the world.

It was recently detected in Papua New Guinea in March 2020.

African swine fever has never been found in Australia. An outbreak would have a serious impact on the pork and agricultural industries.

**You can help by never feeding swill to pigs.** Swill feeding is illegal.

Swill is food or food scraps containing meat, meat products, eggs or which has had contact with meat products.

For more information see [African swine fever](#)

## ASEL version 3

The Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock (ASEL) [version 3.0](#) was published in April 2020.

Key changes include in ASEL 3.0 include

- Revised pen space allowances, with more space provided to livestock on vessels in most circumstances.
- Increases to the time required for some livestock to be prepared at the registered premises.
- Changes to the notifiable mortality rate for livestock and the requirements for notification.
- A new definition of voyage length with related changes for personnel, bedding and feed requirements.
- Inclusion and extension of additional management plans for sea and air.
- New general requirements and species-specific requirements for standards 1, 3 and 6.

The legislated enforcement date of the ASEL 3.0 is planned for 1 November 2020. All livestock exported on or after this date must comply with the ASEL 3.0.

Find out how [transitioning from ASEL 2.3 to ASEL 3.0 will affect you](#).



## NABS network

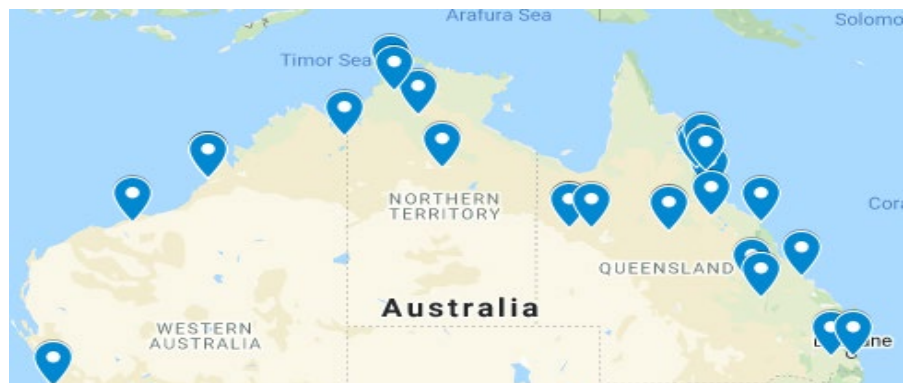
The NABSnet is a network of over 50 vets who service northern Australia.

NABSnet vets are trained in investigating livestock disease in the north and have access to subsidies, resources and support for investigating livestock diseases events.

In March, the group met in Broome for the annual NABS Masterclass, where they brushed up on their animal disease investigation skills and shared interesting cases.

**Producers can access subsidises for investigating livestock disease events.**

For more info, or to find a vet in the NABSnet, go to [nabsnet.com.au](http://nabsnet.com.au).



NABSnet vet locations

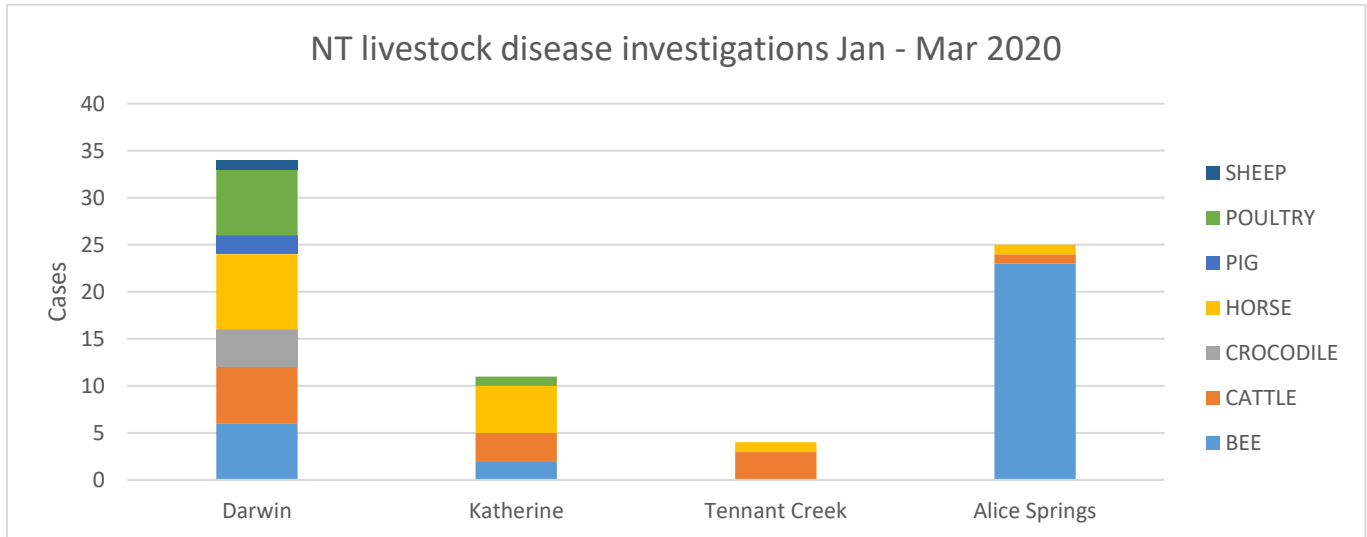


Vets at the NABS Masterclass, Broome, March 2020

## Disease surveillance

### NT livestock disease investigations

From January to March 2020, there were 74 livestock disease investigations in the NT. 31 cases were related to a detection of American Foulbrood in honeybees; see [American Foulbrood](#).



For a snapshot of national data, see the most recent issue of the [Animal Health Surveillance Quarterly](#).

### National Arbovirus Monitoring Program (NAMP)

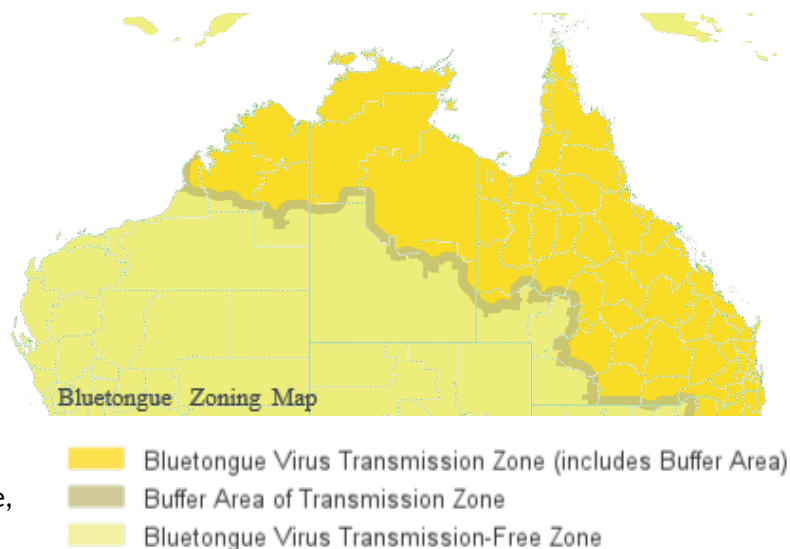
The NAMP monitors important arboviruses (insect-borne) livestock viruses in Australia, in order to support trade, provide an early warning to producers and to manage potential risks to export. See the current [NAMP map](#).

Arboviruses are spread by *Culicoides* midges and the distribution of these insects varies seasonally. In the NT, arbovirus activity occurs in the north while the south remains free. The boundary between these zones – the surveillance zone – runs across the southern Katherine and Tennant Creek/Alice Springs regions.

It is important to be able to justify the presence or absence of these arboviruses in the NT; for example, the NAMP has been a key tool for exporters sourcing eligible for certain markets, such as Turkey.

**Properties are encouraged to participate in the NAMP.** Blood samples are required from thirty 12-18 month-old homebred cattle (steers or heifers), and Livestock Biosecurity Branch staff can collect these samples at a convenient time for you.

For more info, or to arrange testing on your property, see [National Arbovirus Monitoring Program](#) or speak to your local Livestock Biosecurity Officer.



## Case report – a complex case in Central Australia

A property south of Tennant Creek experienced some unusual illness and deaths in replacement herd bulls and then weaners during December and January.

Signs included muscle trembling and stumbling during muster, runny noses and eyes, diarrhoea (black &/or watery scours), and animals that were depressed and slow to move.

The Government Veterinary Officer and Livestock Biosecurity Officer took a number of samples from sick and dead cattle across a number of property visits.

No single disease was pinpointed as the cause of disease in this case. It is likely that a number of factors were involved, including

- Prolonged **dry weather** in 2019 which meant a lack of roughage and the prolonged, **extreme heat** in October to January
- An increase in insect activity following recent rain could have led to infection with **three day sickness** which tipped some animals over the edge
- Poisonous plants- such as *Senna artemisioides* (also known as **senna** or **cassia**), which contains an unidentified muscle toxin and may cause diarrhoea and muscle damage, and **cycad/zamia**.
- Potential **Vitamin A deficiency** within the herd due to lack of green feed.



Credit: FloraBase WA