



Animal Health / Human Health

The interaction between animal and human health and welfare
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Livestock health & welfare Vs Farmer health & wellbeing

Correlation between livestock & farmer health & wellbeing

- Relationship can impact in both directions
- Compromised farmer physical or mental health impacts on health & welfare of their livestock.

Conversely;

- Compromised health & welfare of livestock > detrimental impact on farmer's physical & emotional wellbeing.

Livestock business & productivity

- Livestock productivity related to health & wellbeing of stock
- Livestock prod'n is a business for farmers
- Farmers are attune to health & welfare of their stock > improve productivity & economical sustainability of farming enterprise.
- Farmers do care about & for their animals

Livestock diseases

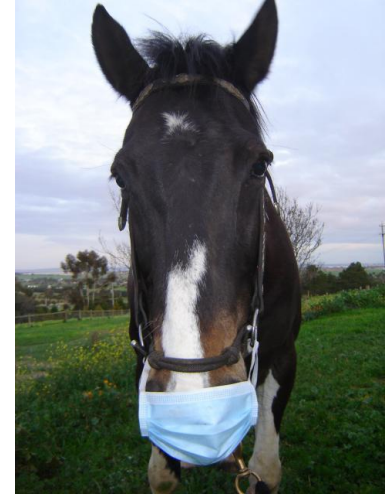
- Affect animal health & impact on farming enterprise
- Sudden disease outbreaks eg Anthrax or insidious endemic diseases eg ojd in sheep or bjd in dairy cattle impact on livestock & financial return for farming business.
- Some diseases may impact on small no. animals but large impact on market access for individual farmer for their produce

Exotic livestock diseases



- Incursion of EI into NSW & Qld in 2007 > little impact on health of horses, but lot of stress (financial & emotional) on horse owners, due to restrictions on horse mov't & events.
- Incursions of FMD would cause huge emotional stress on livestock farmers with necessary quarantine & slaughter of livestock and closure of export markets.

Zoonotic diseases



Some zoonotic diseases have little impact on health of animals but cause illness in farm workers eg Q-fever

Other zoonoses affect both livestock & human health eg Leptospirosis, Anthrax.



Environmental & External forces

Welfare of livestock impacted by environmental & external forces:

- Prolonged drought
- Floods
- Wildfires
- Low commodity prices



Farmers have risk management strategies to mitigate impacts but severe or prolonged incidents impact livestock health & welfare, > detrimental impact on farmer stress level & wellbeing.

Key Message

Where the physical or mental health of the farmer is compromised, this will often impact on the health and welfare of their livestock, and conversely where the health and welfare of livestock is compromised, this can have a detrimental impact on the farmer's physical and emotional wellbeing.

Where we fit in the picture?

- The farmer is the greatest farm enterprise asset
- Chronic stress impacts on human health & wellbeing
- Physical or psychological impairment without medical assistance may have a detrimental impact on livestock health & welfare, leading to further financial and emotional stress on the farmer.
- Vets & Gov't AH officials deal with these issues at the farm level & are well placed to initiate referral of farmers to human health professionals.