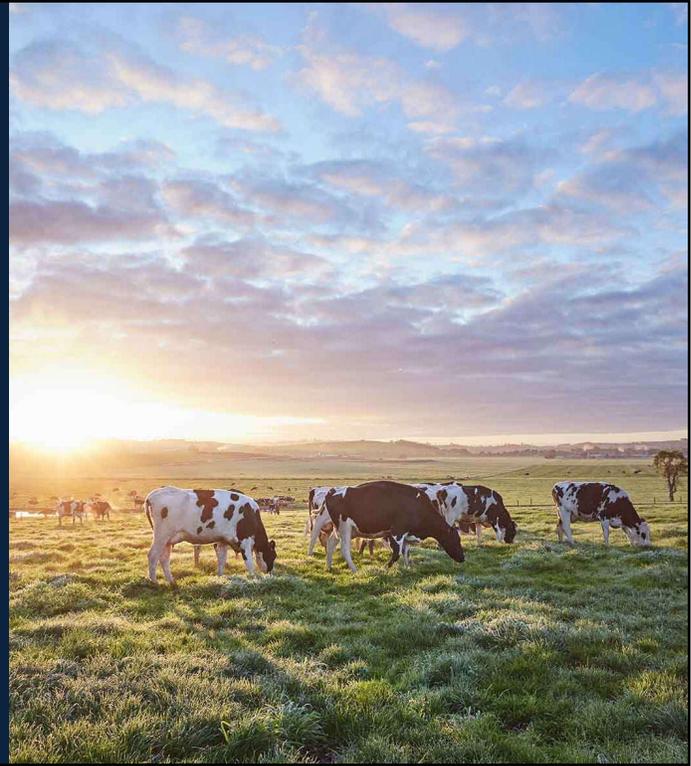


# BIOSECURITY IN AUSTRALIA

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29/01/26

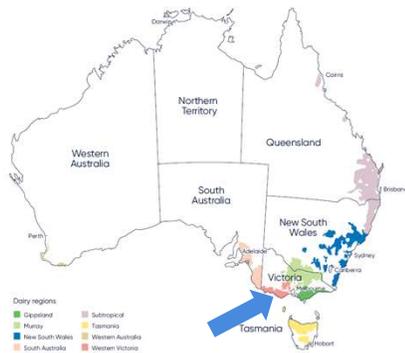


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## Introduction

Dairy veterinarian

- Dairy farm in Southwest Victoria
- Milk 750 cows, rear ~250 calves each year
- Pasture based, loafing barn in wet conditions



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## Freedom from disease

Australia is lucky to be free from many significant cattle diseases:

- Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)
- Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD)
- Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE)
- Bovine tuberculosis (TB)
- Brucellosis
- Avian Influenza H5N1



<https://inews.co.uk/news/long-reads/foot-and-mouth-disease-20-years-farmers-case-studies-livestock-slaughtered-875811>  
<https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/7525384/mad-cow-disease-bse-outbreak-dangerous-humans-vcj/>  
<https://www.nature.com/articles/d44151-024-00047-1>

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## Freedom from disease

Geographically isolated

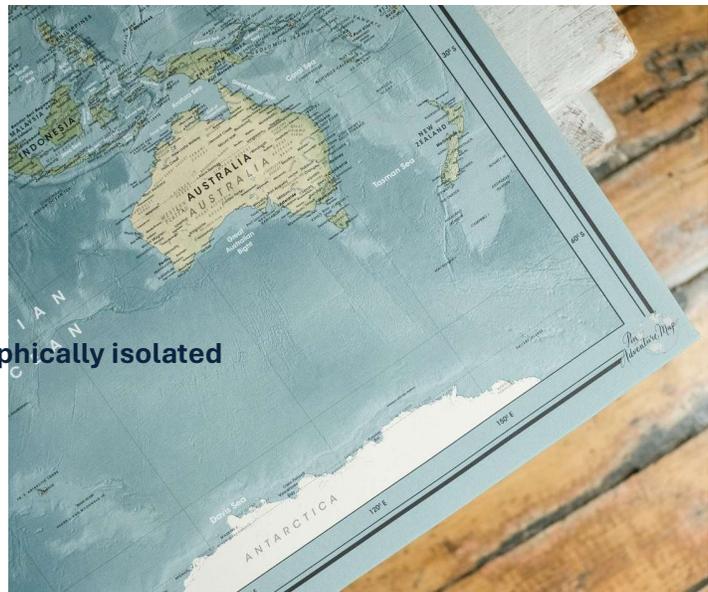


Photo by [Pin Adventure Map](#) on [Unsplash](#)

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## Freedom from disease

Relatively young cattle population (~240 years)



Cattle and colonialism: the animals that built Sydney - The Architectural Review



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## Freedom from disease

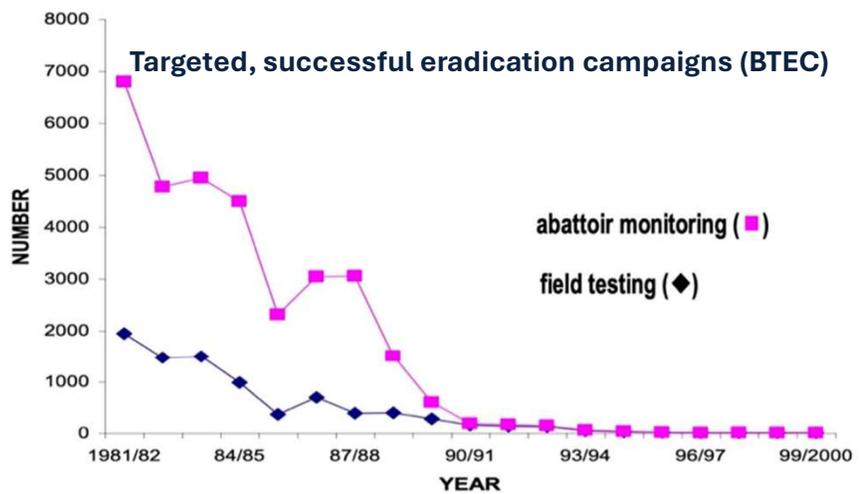


Fig. 1 Tuberculosis infection in cattle in Australia (1981–2000), as detected by abattoir monitoring and field testing. Adapted from [2]

Australia's colourful path to tuberculosis freedom | Irish Veterinary Journal | Full Text



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## Border control: preventing entry

- Australia doesn't allow imports of any susceptible live animals, semen or uncooked meat or unprocessed dairy products from FMD-affected countries or zones
- Highest risk of entry of FMD to Australia is contaminated, illegally imported or brought in animal products, such as meat or dairy (that then come in contact with susceptible animals)



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## Preventing entry

- Inspection of incoming mail, passengers and luggage



<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-10-08/what-happened-to-the-threat-of-foot-and-mouth-disease/101496660>

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## Border control: preventing entry

Recommendations for dairy farms:

- Keep a closed herd – breed own replacements
- Maintain farm boundary fences, minimise feral animals
- No shared tracks between animals and vehicles
- Identify sick animals quickly, isolate and seek diagnosis
- Minimise visitors, appropriate protective clothing



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## Detect disease early: surveillance

Vector monitoring:

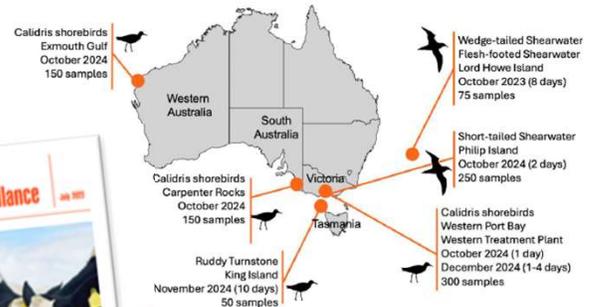
- H5N1
- Lumpy skin disease

Funded investigation

- Disease exclusions (BSE)
- Significant disease investigations



Proposed program, 2024



Sampling program for long distance migratory shorebirds and seabirds in 2024.

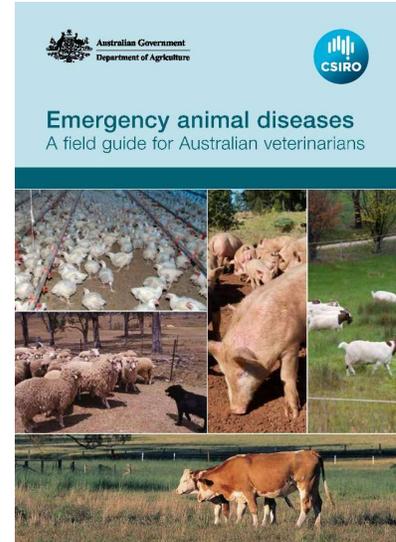
[dairyaustralia.com.au/Our-Work/Surveillance/Wild-Bird-Surveillance](https://dairyaustralia.com.au/Our-Work/Surveillance/Wild-Bird-Surveillance)

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## Detect disease early: awareness

Industry and government education and awareness activities:

- Fact sheets and disease guides
- Webinars and social media posts
- 24-hour free call service for reporting suspected incidences of exotic diseases — 1800 675 888.



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## Containing disease SPREAD: (and hopefully eradicating it)

In the event of an emergency animal disease outbreak, Australia has a national contingency framework:

- Cost sharing agreement between industry and government
- A series of technical manuals and documents that describe the nationally preferred approach to responding to EADs
- Role-specific training
- Facilitates effective responses to an EAD by providing a consistent, pre-agreed approach
- Research to support control activities, food safety (LSD pasteurisation studies, H5N1 disinfection studies)



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