

Animal Disease Investigation

Intensive 2-day training courses, 2024

Introduction

Agriculture Victoria is offering a two-day course in animal disease investigation for private veterinary practitioners. The course aims to enable participants to investigate animal disease events confidently and competently through a combination of theory and practice. The theory sessions are highly interactive involving animal disease case studies, set tasks and short presentations; the practical sessions focus on the conduct of a safe, systematic, comprehensive ruminant necropsy.

Who should attend?

This course is designed for veterinary practitioners who work in either large or mixed animal practice in both rural and peri-urban areas in Victoria. Practitioners working in peri-urban areas of Melbourne and regional centres, who see livestock infrequently, are encouraged to apply.

Course content

Day One topics include:

- How to prepare for a successful investigation and using Agriculture Victoria's resources to help you.
- How not to miss anything (including the diagnosis) and avoid common mistakes.
- How to manage your time and energy, and still get the detailed history you need.
- Conceptual frameworks that make the most complex disease events easy to solve i.e., practical field epidemiology.
- Tips and tools that can make the difference between success and failure.
- How to describe, interpret and photograph post-mortem findings.

Day Two topics include:

- How not to pick up a zoonotic infection.
- How not to spread disease around the locality.
- How to store, transport and set-up your equipment.
- How to open a carcass.
- How to collect high quality, uncontaminated samples and take useful photos.
- Common mistakes when performing necropsies and how to avoid them.
- Getting samples to the laboratory safely and in good condition.
- How to sharpen a knife.

Course structure and duration

This is an intensive, two-day training course that will be delivered in February and March 2024 across Victoria at the following locations:

Ellinbank: Tuesday 27 – Wednesday 28 February 2024
Rutherglen: Tuesday 5 – Wednesday 6 March 2024
Bendigo / Elmore: Tuesday 12 – Wednesday 13 March 2024
Hamilton: Tuesday 26 – Wednesday 27 March 2024

Day 1 of the course runs from 8.30 am to 5.00 pm, followed by an **evening session from 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm**. Day 2 of the course runs from 8.30 am to 4.30 pm.

Your Agriculture Victoria tutors for the course will be a pathologist from AgriBio, Agriculture Victoria's animal diagnostic laboratory, and experienced field veterinarians.

Course costs

Training costs will be met by Agriculture Victoria. All meals and accommodation associated with course delivery will also be met by Agriculture Victoria (excluding alcohol). Participants will need to make their own transport arrangements to / from the course location.

Qualification pathways

Participants who successfully complete the course will be awarded a certificate of completion and will be eligible to claim 15 structured activity CPD units.

How to apply

Applications must be submitted by email to gill.holland@agriculture.vic.gov.au by COB Friday 16th February 2024. Please use the separate application form. Successful applicants will be notified shortly after the closing date. Note that places are limited - there is a total of twelve participants per course.

Contact for further information

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