

New Zealand Racing Board Equine Influenza Meeting

2 October 2007

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The EI outbreak in Australia

- First identified in Eastern Creek Quarantine Station (Sydney) – Japanese horses initially suspected as possible source.
- NZ notified of this on 23 August 2007.
- First case outside of ECQS – 25 August 2007

New Zealand's response to E1 outbreak in Australia

- Response group set up immediately:
- Border closed to horse imports from Australia
- Later also exports to Australia as movement controls implemented
- Tracing commenced on all horses imported since 1 August 2007 (conservative date)

New Zealand's response (continued)

- Investigation into 96 horses – all followed up and confirmed negative
- Heightened border controls (Standing Order) for incoming passengers from Australia. Public complaints followed up.
- Media releases to increase public awareness
- Import requirements for horses from endemic countries made more stringent

Current Australian situation

- Number of infected places (i.e. disease confirmed) by 10 am on 29 Sept:
- NSW 2929
- QLD 425

Current Australian situation

Vaccination commenced this weekend

- in buffer zones for high risk horses
- in infected areas within restricted areas of NSW and QLD
- in horses participating in the Victoria spring carnival to protect national assets.

Vaccines – the basics

- 3 Types of vaccine:
- Killed (or inactivated) – 2 registered
- Live (weakened)
- Modified

Vaccines continued...

- Many strains of virus (Newmarket, Florida etc)
- Virus keeps changing and need to make sure that correct vaccine is used

Why are vaccines used?

- Vaccination may lessen the severity and impact of the disease and if used correctly can slow or limit the spread of equine influenza

What are the considerations around vaccination?

- Although vaccination may lessen the severity of disease but does not prevent horses from spreading the virus – in apparent shedders of virus
- More difficult to detect and can therefore spread more widely until it is discovered

Vaccines considerations continued...

- Immunity does not last long and booster vaccinations are therefore needed
- To impact on a national programme at least 70% of horses should be vaccinated

Why are vaccines not freely available?

- Vaccines controlled because of impacts on trade (MAFBNZ the registrant)
- Need to ID horses that are vaccinated – why?

What are impacts of vaccination?

- Impacts on retaining country freedom
- Will result in the need to have active surveillance in place (expensive testing) if we wish to continue claiming EI freedom

Vaccines – emergency use

Vaccines may be used strategically in emergencies (i.e. outbreaks) as the Australians are doing to reduce the spread of the disease and to lessen the impacts on horses

Vaccines – non-emergency use (i.e. when disease is not present)

- For targeted horses (high risk groups or animals)
- Large scale vaccination to ensure that horses have a degree of immunity and that the disease (if it occurs) will be less severe and less likely to spread (70%)
- But consider the implications!!!

Vaccines registered by MAFBNZ for emergency use

- 1. Equip F (Schering-Plough)
- A/equi1/ Newmarket/77
- A/equi2/ Borlange/91
- A/equi2/ Kentucky/98 (American strain)

Vaccines continued...

- 2. Equilis IPA (Intervet)
- A/equi1/Prague/1/56
- A/equi2/Newmarket/1/93
- A/equi2/Newmarket/2/93

Vaccines continued.....

- Prezenza to replace Equilis IPA (currently in progress)
- A/equi-1/ Prague/1/ 56
- A/equi-2/ Newmarket/1/93
- A/equi-2/ Newmarket/2/93

Vaccines continued...

Strain in Australian outbreak

- *A/equine2/Wisconsin/1/03*
- Australia using Proteq Flu:
- *A/equi2/Kentucky/94*
- *A/equi2/Newmarket/2/93*

The vaccination issue

In summary:

- Not a simple issue and always controversial. All aspects/implications need to be carefully considered and input sought from a wide array of stakeholders.