

Food Incident Situation Report

		Incident No: 2019-01
Salmonella Enteritidis linked to eggs		
Plan current as at:	31 MAY 2019	Plan No: 8
Notifying Agency	NSW DPI	
Incident Objective: The Incident Objective is currently: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> information sharing raise awareness of quarantine and flock control measures Note: Incident objectives will be established and updated for each teleconference		
Situation:		
Situation as at 31 May 2019 <div style="background-color: black; height: 100px; width: 100%;"></div> <p style="text-align: center;">s 45/ 47B/ 47E/ 47G</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At 11.00am AEST on 30 May 2019 a second teleconference was held under the National Food Incident Response Protocol (NFIRP). A Summary of Actions was circulated. On 29 May 2019 NSW DPI confirmed another farm has tested positive for SE, with ten NSW egg layer farms and one Victorian egg layer farm now having detections of SE. 		
Situation as at 24 May 2019 <div style="background-color: black; height: 100px; width: 100%;"></div> <p style="text-align: center;">s 45/ 47B/ 47E/ 47G</p> <div style="background-color: black; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div> <div style="background-color: black; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSW DPI circulated a Jurisdictional update on SE NSW as at 21 May 2019 via the BFSN on 21 May 2019: <div style="background-color: black; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div> <p style="text-align: center;">s 45/ 47B/ 47E/ 47G</p> <div style="background-color: black; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In NSW, the current on-farm response is focussed on managing the infected properties and undertaking surveillance activities. Planning is underway to transition from response to management through normal business processes. Control measures have included: voluntary consumer and trade level egg recalls, 		

product withdrawals, voluntary product test and hold systems, improvement notices and prohibitions orders placed on egg businesses and restaurants, consumer advisory warnings, and on-farm biosecurity directions to stop movement of eggs into the marketplace.

Situation as at 17 May 2019

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- NSW DPI have published a detailed package of information on SE on [their website](#), providing details on the strain, on the current situation in NSW confirming that nine NSW egg layer farms and one Victorian egg layer farm have now had detections of SE, FAQs, and factsheets including advice for farmers and industry providers.
- On 14 May 2019 NSW DPI confirmed that a ninth farm in NSW (Ash and Sons feeder farm) has tested positive for SE as a result of ongoing surveillance of trace properties. However, the company had implemented a test and hold policy and no eggs have gone to market since last negative screen in Apr 2019. Biosecurity orders are in place.

Situation as at 10 May 2019

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- NSW DPI Biosecurity & Food Safety received confirmation on Monday 7 May 2019 that samples and swabs from an additional NSW egg farm and grading facility (Port Stephens eggs) had tested positive for SE. The farm, a very small supplier located at Anna Bay, NSW advises that it only distributes eggs in NSW in the Port Stephens area and that eggs are not exported outside NSW. The farm has also advised that they will be conducting a recall. The farm was receiving eggs from other farms in NSW that have previously been identified as SE positive.
- NSW DPI issued a [press release](#) relating to the recent consumer level recall conducted by Port Stephens eggs on 7 May 2019.

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Situation as at 18 April 2019

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- NSW DPI Biosecurity & Food Safety received confirmation on Monday 15 April 2019 that samples and swabs from an additional NSW egg farm and grading facility (Steve's Fresh Farm Eggs) had tested positive for SE. The farm was receiving eggs from other farms in NSW that have previously been identified as SE positive.
- FSANZ 2019/28 – Food recall (Consumer and Trade level) for eggs in NSW from Steve's Fresh Farm Eggs in NSW.
- NSW DPI issued a [press release](#) relating to the recent consumer level recall conducted by Steve's Fresh Farm Eggs.

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Situation as at 8 April 2019

- FSANZ 2019/23 (coordinated on 6 April) – Food recall (Consumer level) for eggs in NSW and ACT from Southern Highlands Organic Eggs/Synergy Produce Pty Ltd in NSW

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Situation as at 1 April 2019

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- FSANZ 2019/18 (coordinated on 27 March) – Food recall (Trade and Consumer level) for eggs in NSW from Ash and Sons in NSW
- NSW DPI issued a [media release](#) regarding this recall (FSANZ 2019/18)
- Australian Eggs issued an associated [media release](#) on 27 March 2019 and Associated media has been issued by [NSW DPI](#)
- FSANZ 2019/15 updated – additional eggs stamping information (of recalled eggs) was provided to FSANZ by Bridgewater Poultry eggs; this information was added to the consumer recall notice on the FSANZ [website](#) on 28 March 2019.
- Additional associated media has been issued by [NSW DPI](#)

Situation as at COB 25 March 2019

- FSANZ has hosted a [webpage](#) on this issue; linking to the consumer level recalls
- FSANZ 2019/15 (coordinated on 21 March) – Consumer level recall in Victoria; eggs recalled from Victoria, New South Wales, Tasmania, South Australia and the Australian

Capital Territory

- Associated media has also been issued by [Tasmania](#), [Victoria](#) and [NSW](#) and by [NSW DPI](#)
- The draft emergency risk profile was updated and circulated on 22 March 2019 and will continue to be updated as new information comes to light
- Whole of Government talking points (also updated 22 March 2019) [note these are not in the public domain]

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Situation as at 1:00pm, 20 March 2019

- The NFIRP was formally triggered by the NSW DPI on 19 March 2019 as a result of *Salmonella Enteritidis* (SE) detections on layer farms across two jurisdictions (NSW, Victoria).
- At 1.00pm AEDT on 20 March 2019 an initial teleconference was held under the NFIRP. A Summary of Actions was circulated.

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- FSANZ 2019/14 – Trade level recall in NSW (and VIC confirmed on 21 March) from cafés, takeaways and restaurants of free range eggs from Ash and Sons in NSW.

Risk to public health and safety:

- The initial (20 March) Draft Emergency Risk Profile was drafted by FSANZ in consultation with NSW DPI and circulated prior to the first teleconference.

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- A revised Draft Emergency Risk Profile was circulated (22 March 2019) following more detailed updates from members of the BFSN.

Changes in risk management requirements in NSW:

Situation as at 21 May 2019

- A cross-jurisdictional (industry and government) SE working group on *Salmonella* vaccination has developed a paper, submitted to the Animal Health Committee (AHC), on options for potentially incorporating *Salmonella* vaccination as a management tool on SE-infected properties, recommending that the vaccine be applied at least twice in affected and in-contact farms. A response from the AHC is pending.
- In NSW the national Food Safety Risk Priority Classification Framework and development of associated food safety standards were applied to the egg industry when there was no evidence of SE in Australian flocks. The priority classifications applied to NSW egg businesses are currently being examined to determine whether they remain fit for purpose given the change in risk created by SE. Current classifications and flow on regulatory requirements such as audit frequency, traceability and record keeping requirements will change. The rollout of a new food safety program will commence 1 July 2019 to all

licensed egg businesses in NSW.

- The use of a State-wide control order covering commercial operations (premises required to be licenced under the *Food Act 2003*) to prevent, eliminate, minimise or manage the biosecurity risk associated with SE is anticipated. This control order would mandate biosecurity practices across the State on poultry farms. Checking compliance with the control order would be done as part of the audit process of licensed egg businesses in NSW.
- It is intended that any current or future IP will not be allowed to restock or engage in egg production unless they have been assessed and fully comply with the control order and any additional biosecurity measures they must meet prior to restocking.

Response:**Environmental investigation (as at 31 May 2019):**

- NSW DPI have confirmed another farm has tested positive for SE, with now ten NSW egg layer farms and one Victorian egg layer farm having detections of SE.

Environmental investigation (as at 21 May 2019):

- In NSW, there are 22 properties under active surveillance by industry (10) or government (12): excludes 9 infected properties (IP). SE monitoring at these properties will continue for six months at weekly or fortnightly testing intervals. After three months this shifts to monthly testing for up to six months.
- All IPs are interconnected in that people, eggs or equipment were moving between them. The last IP was notified to NSW DPI on 10 May 2019.
- All IPs have been issued an individual biosecurity direction under the *NSW Biosecurity Act 2015* that includes the "quarantine" of premises to stop movement of eggs into the marketplace. All have rodent control programs in place and have depopulated/disposed of birds, removed eggs, packaging, and manure (or this is underway). These properties remain under an active surveillance program to ensure they are complying with the biosecurity directions issued by DPI.
- Currently all IPs are still undergoing decontamination by the producer or landholder. Decontamination of infected sites has proved challenging, as SE remains in the dust and organic material for over 12 months and rodents and insects are a common vector. None of the IPs have restocked.

Environmental investigation (as at 17 May 2019):

- NSW DPI continue to coordinate an active response to SE in NSW. This includes targeted sampling and monitoring of egg producers as well as, where appropriate, biosecurity orders restricting activity on affected farms.
- 5 point-source clusters have been investigated by NSW DPI
- The investigation includes tracing the supply of market garden leafy greens and eggs. Common egg supply to implicated retail outlets led to SE being isolated from samples collected from 9 NSW egg farms (from 5 producers).
- On 14 May 2019 NSW DPI confirmed that a ninth farm in NSW (Ash and Sons feeder farm) has tested positive for SE as a result of ongoing surveillance of trace properties. However, the company had implemented a test and hold policy and no eggs have gone to market since last negative screen in Apr 2019. Biosecurity orders are in place.
- 1 Victorian farm is currently under investigation.
- The following factors were identified as likely contributors to the outbreak:
 - Poor cleaning and sanitising
 - The use of raw eggs to make deep fried ice-cream
- NSW DPI Biosecurity and Victorian DHHS are engaged in an ongoing investigation into supply of eggs linked to the outbreak.

Action taken to date:

- The SE cluster was first detected in July 2018 and was initially traced to a farm with 52,000 birds on the outskirts of Sydney in early September 2018. This flock was subsequently destroyed.
- On 7 September 2018, NSW Health and NSW Food Authority issued a public statement regarding their investigation into eggs sold under the brand "Glendenning Farms" as a result of cases of SE being linked to contaminated eggs sold in the Sydney metropolitan

region. Eggs sold under this brand were recalled; FSANZ 2018/69.

- In early-mid January 2019, birds on three other farms tested positive for SE (farm sizes of 70,000, 30,000, and 5,000 birds). These flocks were also destroyed.
- On 1 February 2019, NSW Food Authority issued another public health warning urging people to check their kitchens for any eggs that are marked with the identifying stamp BEC or BEC115. The advice was that not all eggs were impacted and that, thanks to mandatory egg stamping required in NSW, the Food Authority was able to isolate the particular batch of eggs.
- The NSW Food Authority had placed a Prohibition Order on the business that produced the eggs earlier in January preventing them from selling eggs while the possible Salmonella contamination was investigated.

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- FSANZ 2018/69 (coordinated 7 September 2018) – Consumer level recall in NSW for eggs from Glendenning Farm eggs in NSW.
- FSANZ 2019/14 (coordinated on 21 March 2019) – Trade level recall in NSW (and VIC confirmed on 21 March) from cafés, takeaways and restaurants of free range eggs from Ash and Sons in NSW.
- FSANZ 2019/15 (coordinated on 21 March 2019) – Consumer level recall in Victoria; eggs recalled from Victoria, New South Wales, Tasmania, South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory
- FSANZ 2019/18 (coordinated on 27 March 2019) – Food recall (Trade and Consumer level) for eggs in NSW from Ash and Sons in NSW
- FSANZ 2019/23 (coordinated on 6 April 2019) – Food recall (Consumer level) for eggs in NSW and ACT from Southern Highlands Organic Eggs/Synergy Produce Pty Ltd in NSW
- FSANZ 2019/28 (coordinated on 16 April 2019) – Food recall (Consumer and Trade level) for eggs in NSW from Steve's Fresh Farm Eggs in NSW.
- FSANZ 2019/32 (coordinated on 7 May 2019) – Food recall (Consumer level) for eggs in NSW from Port Stephens Eggs in NSW.

Has this issue been handled under the Bi-National Food Safety Network? YES

- The BFSN was notified on Monday 4 March 2019 on request of NSW DPI - for information.
- The issue has been raised and discussed at routine OzFoodNet teleconferences/meetings.

Action taken to date (under the NFIRP):

- NFIRP teleconference#1 for Incident no. 2019-01 held 20 March 2019
- **NFIRP teleconference#2 for Incident no. 2019-01 held 30 May 2019**
- Updates distributed via Email

Future action:

- Further teleconferences will be held as required
- Situation reports/updated to be circulated as required

Communications:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DAWR have export certification notification requirements – particularly to Korea and Singapore. Information provided to Agricultural Counsellor network (21 March 2019). FSANZ/DAWR/DoH have developed Whole of Government talking points (latest 31 May 2019). Potential media questions have been circulated for comment. 	
Issues and comments:	
Action required:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please keep FSANZ aware of any updates or changes to the incident. 	
Stand-down:	
OTHER PLANS/PROTOCOLS ACTIVATED:	MJOI (2019_0001)
Distributed to:	
Bi-National Food Incident Response Network	
CONTACT PERSON(S) FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:	
<div>s 22</div> Food Safety and Response FSANZ <div>s 22</div>	
ATTACHMENTS	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> FSANZ incident webpage NSW DPI SE webpage Updated Whole of Government talking points as of 31 May 2019 	