

## Talking Points – Salmonella Enteritidis linked to eggs

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**ISSUE:** Salmonella Enteritidis (SE) linked to eggs

### Talking Points

- Food regulators, health authorities and Chief Veterinary Officers in Australia are investigating a rare strain of Salmonella (Salmonella Enteritidis) linked to illness and egg production.
- Authorities are working closely with peak industry bodies, including Australian Eggs and the Australian Chicken Meat Federation on the ongoing investigation.

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### Response – health and on farm

- There are two coordinated responses to this outbreak given the health and on farm nature of the issue.

#### *Health (through FSANZ)*

- The National Food Incident Response Protocol was triggered on 19 March 2019 as this food safety incident involves more than one jurisdiction.
- Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) is coordinating the issue under the National Food Incident Response Protocol.

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- In early 2019, the NSW Food Authority placed a Prohibition Order on the business that produced the eggs related to NSW cases; preventing the business from selling eggs while the contamination was investigated. It also released advice to consumers on the batches of eggs that were affected.

#### *On farm (through Chief Veterinary Officers of Commonwealth, State and Territory Jurisdictions)*

- As the lead agency, New South Wales will continue to assess and manage the situation, including any incident-specific considerations such as animal welfare implications and potential biosecurity breaches.
- Authorities are being guided by the Salmonella Enteritidis Response Plan developed by [Australian Eggs Limited](#). This includes on farm quarantine and destruction of flock measures.
- The only way to remove the virus is to use the farm quarantine and destruction measures in the Salmonella Enteritidis Response Plan.

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- NSW and Victoria are working with affected producers to manage the incidents. In early 2019 The NSW Department of Primary Industries issued a biosecurity direction on the farm to restrict movement of livestock, eggs, manure and disposables and order the disinfection and decontamination of equipment.

*If asked:*

*Have affected eggs been exported?*

- There is no known export of affected eggs.
- The department is working with State authorities to ensure that no eggs have ended up in the export supply chain.

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### **Background**

- SE is a strain of Salmonella which can infect the reproductive tract of poultry and contaminate the internal contents of eggs. This strain is different from the type of Salmonella most commonly associated with eggs (Salmonella Typhimurium) which is found on the shell.

### *Australian egg industry*

- The gross value of egg production was \$819.6 million in 2017 FY.
- Major supermarket grocery chains sold 229.658 million dozen in 2017 FY which was around half the total egg production in the 2018 FY of 515.7 million dozen.

### *Export impacts*

- There is no known export of affected eggs.
- The department has confirmed that the establishments affected in NSW are outside of the export supply chain for eggs and has implemented controls to ensure that no affected eggs from these establishments enter the export supply chain.
- The Victorian layer farm is still under investigation, so while there is no evidence that product has entered the export supply chain at this time, the investigation is still underway.
- Currently Singapore and Korea require attestations confirming that the eggs have not been sourced from farms that have had SE in the last 3 months and the department is implementing the relevant measures to ensure that this is enforced when applying for export certification.
- To ensure freedom from SE, NSW DPI coordinates the National Salmonella Enteritidis Monitoring & Accreditation Program (NSEMAP), which includes all Australian states. The NSEMAP is available for all Australian commercial egg producers exporting eggs to overseas markets but is not mandatory. Where an importing country requires certification as free from SE, the NSEMAP can provide the relevant assurances.
- Under the Salmonella Enteritidis Incident Response Plan (Australian Eggs), birds and other potentially infectious material on SE infected properties (such as manure, eggs, packaging) are to be quarantined and destroyed. In NSW these actions are currently underway.

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- There is no known export of affected eggs, and no evidence of any direct sales of eggs into any other jurisdiction other than Victoria. The department has worked with State authorities to ensure that no eggs have ended up in the export supply chain.
- The top 9 export market for eggs from Australia have been identified as Hong Kong, Singapore, Sri Lanka, New Zealand, Saudi Arabia, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Republic of Korea, Nauru.
- Exports of Fresh shell eggs by country of destination by value (2018 FY)
  - Hong Kong- \$934,184
  - Singapore- \$465,129
  - Sri Lanka- \$214,774
  - New Zealand- \$199,293
  - New Caledonia- \$112,613
  - Vanuatu- \$92,564
  - Republic of Korea- \$78,090
- Accreditation of SE freedom can be supplied through the National Salmonella Enteritidis Monitoring & Accreditation Program (NSEMAP). NSEMAP freedom and accreditation guidelines can be found [here](#).

### *Illness*

- Symptoms are usually limited to mild gastroenteritis, with patients usually recovering within a week. But the illness can lead to systemic illness such as septicaemia and other longer-term conditions.
- Severe cases of diarrhoea can lead to significant dehydration which may require hospitalisation and medical intervention such as intravenous fluid replacement.
- Although uncommon, long-term effects may occur include reactive arthritis.
- This strain can be passed from person to person, however, this is more likely to occur in young children due to poor hand hygiene.

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### Timeline

|                         |  |
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| September 2018          | Salmonella Enteritidis outbreak first detected on a NSW egg farm.  |
| Late 2018               | Voluntary recall of Glendenning Farms eggs undertaken in response to 23 confirmed cases of Salmonella Enteritidis in NSW.  |
| Late 2018               | NSW Department of Primary Industries issues a biosecurity direction on the farm to restrict movement of livestock, eggs, manure and disposables and order the disinfection and decontamination of equipment. |
| Early 2019              | NSW Food Authority placed a Prohibition Order on the business that produced the eggs related to NSW cases; preventing the business from selling eggs while the contamination was investigated.               |
| Early 2019              | NSW Food Authority also released advice to consumers on the batches of eggs that were affected.  |
| Wednesday 13 March 2019 | Four other farms have positive detections of Salmonella Enteritidis with most recent notification on this day.   |
| Monday 18 March 2019    | Confirmed Salmonella Enteritidis detection at largest Victorian egg laying farm.   |
| Tuesday 19 March 2019   | <p>National Food Incident Response Protocol was triggered on due to further detections on farm in Victoria.</p> <p>s 45/ 47B/ 47E/ 47G</p>   |