

LIVER FLUKE CONTROL ON VICTORIAN DAIRY FARMS

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION STATEMENT

Principal Supervisor: Professor Terry Spithill, Department of Animal, Plant and Soil Sciences, La Trobe University

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PhD Candidate: Ms Jane Kelley, Doctor of Philosophy by Research, Department of Animal, Plant and Soil Sciences, La Trobe University

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Supervisor: Professor Mark Stevenson, Faculty of Veterinary and Agricultural Sciences, The University of Melbourne

Supervisor: Dr Grant Rawlin, Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources

Eligibility

Participants must be a dairy farm owner, manager or share farmer who has treated their cattle in the last 12 months for liver fluke. Participants must be at least 18 years of age and able to fluently read and write English to fill out the survey independently.

Aim

The project aim is to understand current industry practice in regards to the control of liver fluke in dairy cattle in Victoria so that an effective and practical control program can be designed and tested.

Project Benefits

This survey is a part of a wider project investigating liver fluke ecology and management on dairy farms in Victoria. Liver fluke can cause up to a 15% reduction in milk production and reduced growth rates in young replacement animals lowering their fertility. Liver fluke has now however developed drug resistance to some of the most effective flukicides on the market. Since 2014 there have been 8 reported cases of flukicide drug resistance in both beef and dairy cattle in Australia. We hope to determine from the survey the current management practices used to control liver fluke on Victorian dairy farms. This information will be used to develop a liver fluke control program that can be implemented on many dairy farms in Victoria.

Funding

This research is being co-funded by the Gardiner Foundation and Dairy Australia.

What does the research involve?

Your only obligation is to allocate 10 to 20 minutes (maximum) to fill out either the online or hardcopy version of the survey. The questions will be fixed choice and open ended questions which require you to state how you manage your dairy cattle and how you control liver fluke in your cattle.

Inconvenience/discomfort

You shouldn't experience any discomfort while answering the questions.

Identification Security

The survey is anonymous. No personal information will be collected apart from your Victorian postcode. The data will be password protected and stored on a password protected computer. Written survey's will be kept in a locked filing cabinet at the Centre for AgriBioscience, La Trobe University, 5 Ring Road, Bundoora 3086. Access to this filing cabinet will be limited to Ms Jane Kelley and Professor Terry Spithill.

Withdrawal

You have the right to withdraw from active participation in this project at any time before submission of the survey. To withdraw do not submit a completed survey. Once surveys are submitted, withdrawal of data is not possible as the data collected is anonymous and your responses cannot be identified for removal. There are no disadvantages, penalties or adverse consequences for not participating or for withdrawing from the research.

Other information

The data may also be included in Jane Kelley's PhD thesis, presented at a conference and/or published in a scientific journal article. A summary of the major findings will be posted on the project website (www.flukecontrol.com) after the completion of the study in January 2018.

Any general questions relating to this project should be directed to Ms Jane Kelley either by email J.Kelley@latrobe.edu.au or phone 03 9032 7459 of the Department of Animal, Plant and Soil Sciences, La Trobe University.

Any concerns or queries relating to how the project has been carried out should be directed to Professor Terry Spithill, either via Email: T.Spithill@latrobe.edu.au or Phone: 03 9032 7428.

If you have any complaints or concerns about your participation in the study that the researcher has not been able to answer to your satisfaction, you may contact the Senior Human Ethics Officer, Ethics and Integrity, Research Office, La Trobe University, Victoria, 3086 (P: 03 9479 1443, E: humanethics@latrobe.edu.au). Please quote the application reference number S17-068.