

Participant Information Sheet and Consent

Project title: Land manager biosecurity planning and behavioural insights among pig owners and producers in NSW

Principal Investigators

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Co-investigators

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Rachel Gordon Policy & Project Support Officer - Animal Biosecurity, NSW Department of Primary Industries, Biosecurity and Food Safety.

You are invited to participate in a research study investigating attitudes and behaviours of NSW pig owners and producers around on-farm biosecurity planning. Please note that to participate in the research you must be over 18 years old.

The study is being conducted by the researchers listed at the top of this document from Charles Sturt University, the Graham Centre for Agricultural Innovation and NSW Department of Primary Industries.

Before you decide whether or not you wish to participate in this study, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take the time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish.

What is the purpose of this study?

To investigate attitudes and behaviours of NSW pig owners and producers around on-farm biosecurity planning with the aim of identifying any gaps that might exist in biosecurity implementation and provide practical tailored interventions and support for adoption of practices that are relevant for building on-farm biosecurity capacity to prevent the introduction and spread of pests and diseases.

The project will involve an online survey distributed to pig owners and producers in NSW that will be used to develop targeted intervention (training) strategy.

Why have I been invited to participate in this study?

We are inviting landholders who keep pigs in NSW to participate in the research

What does this study involve?

Participation will involve the completion of an online survey. It is expected that survey will take approximately 15 minutes to complete.

Are there any risks and benefits to me in taking part in this study?

Participation in this study should involve no physical or mental discomfort. However, if as a result of participating in this research you feel you need help or to talk to someone, support is available from the Centre for Rural and Remote Mental Health 1800 011 511.

There is a possibility that the study will expose some farming practices that do not adhere to biosecurity guidelines. Participation will be anonymous and corrective or compliance action will not be possible. We would like to remind you of your obligation to report to authorities any suspicious animal health incidents.

How is this study being paid for?

This project is funded and supported by NSW Department of Primary Industries.

Will taking part in this study cost me anything, and will I be paid?

Other than your time, there are no costs associated with participating in this research, nor are there payments.

What if I don't want to take part in this study?

Participation in this research is entirely your choice. Only those people who give their informed consent will be included in the project. Whether or not you decide to participate is your decision and will not disadvantage you.

What if I participate and want to withdraw later?

As survey responses are submitted anonymously, it will not be possible to identify and remove individual data.

However, you are free to choose to withdraw from participating in any further activities associated with this research. If you have provided your contact details to be individually informed of the details of the implementation program you can contact the research team and ask that your details be removed and deleted. Please note that all contact details received for this purpose will be deleted at the completion of the research regardless.

How will my confidentiality be protected?

All information collected from you will be stored securely and only accessed by the researchers unless you consent otherwise.

You will have the opportunity to submit your contact details should you wish to be personally informed of the planned implementation (training) program. This will be done separate to the data collected in the survey to maintain the anonymity of the survey responses. At the completion of the survey, a separate link will direct you to a new survey should you choose to provide your details for this purpose. The survey tool will be set to have no IP addresses collected so it will not be possible to link the two sets of data.

Please note that if you do not leave your contact details you will still be informed of the planned activities through general information channels and as such will not be disadvantaged.

Data will be retained for at least 5 years after final publication at Charles Sturt University, the Graham Centre for Agricultural Innovation and NSW Department of Primary Industries.

What will happen to the information that I give you?

The outcomes will be published in relevant reports. The outcomes may also be published in an appropriate scientific journal and/or presented at relevant conferences.

What should I do if I want to discuss this study further before I decide?

If you would like further information please contact:

Dr Nicole Schembri E: nic.schembri@dpi.nsw.gov.au P: 0417 573 744

Lynne Hayes E: lhayes@csu.edu.au P: 02 6933 2802

Who should I contact if I have concerns about the conduct of this study?

Charles Sturt University's Human Research Ethics Committee has approved this project. If you have any complaints or reservations about the ethical conduct of this project, you may contact the Committee through the Ethics and Compliance Unit via the following contact details:

The Governance Officer

Human Research Ethics Committee Ethics and Compliance Unit

Locked Bag 588

Wagga Wagga NSW 2678 Ph: (02) 6933 4628

Email: ethics@csu.edu.au

Any issues you raise will be treated in confidence and investigated fully and you will be informed of the outcome.

What do I need to do next?

Please read through the following **Consent Statements** and if you would like to continue, proceed to the survey questions.

*I agree to participate in the above research project and give my consent freely.

*I understand that the project will be conducted as described in the Participant Information Sheet, a copy of which I have retained.

*I am over the age of 18.

*I understand that participation involves completing a questionnaire

*I understand I can withdraw from the project at any time and do not have to give any reason for withdrawing.

*I understand that my personal information will remain confidential to the researchers

*I have had the opportunity to have questions answered to my satisfaction.

We will assume consent if you have submitted responses.

If you have any technical issues with the survey, please contact Dr Nicole Schembri via nic.schembri@dpi.nsw.gov.au or 0417 573 744