



Participant Information Sheet and Consent

Project title: Evaluation of the Pig Biosecurity Management Planning Education Program

Principal Investigators

Associate Professor Marta Hernandez-Jover BVSc, MSc, PhD. Associate Professor Veterinary Epidemiology & Public Health. School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences Charles, Sturt University and Graham Centre for Agricultural Innovation

E: mhernandez-jover@csu.edu.au P: 02 6933 2086

Dr Nicole Schembri, BSCAgr (Anim Sci) PhD, Behaviour Change Officer (Peri-urban Biosecurity). NSW Department of Primary Industries, Biosecurity and Food Safety.

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

Co-investigators

Ms Lynne Hayes Research Assistant, School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences Charles Sturt University and Graham Centre for Agricultural Innovation

Dr Jennifer Manyweathers BSc (Hons), BVSc (Hons), Grad Dip Sci Comm, PhD MANZCVS, Lecturer in Ruminant Health and Epidemiology. Sturt University and Graham Centre for Agricultural Innovation

Dr Victoria Brookes BVM&S MANZCVS PhD Senior Lecturer Population Health and Production. Charles Sturt University and Graham Centre for Agricultural Innovation

Ms Jessica Rees (Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/ Bachelor of Veterinary Science (Honours) Student)

You are invited to participate in a research study that aims to evaluate the impact of a Pig Biosecurity Management Planning Education Program. 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. This study also forms part of an honours project being undertaken by Jessica Rees under the supervision of Associate Professor Marta Hernandez-Jover and Dr Jennifer Manyweathers.

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?

This study is the final stage in a project that aims 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, weeds and diseases.

In 2020 researchers completed producer interviews and a benchmarking quantitative online survey that was distributed to pig owners and producers in NSW. Associated training and education activities were completed in 2021 by NSW Department of Primary Industries.

The researchers are now conducting a follow-up quantitative online survey and semi structured interviews to assess the efficacy of the targeted intervention (training and education) and any change in pig owner/producer biosecurity land management over time.

Why have I been invited to participate in this study?

We are inviting landholders who keep pigs in NSW to participate in the research. It is not a requirement that you have undertaken any of the activities associated with the targeted intervention (training and education) strategy.

What does this study involve?

Participation will involve the completion of an online survey. It is expected that the survey will take approximately 25 minutes to complete.

At the end of the survey you will be given the opportunity to nominate to participate in a semi structured interview to provide us with more in depth information on the topics of interest. Separate consent will be obtained from those participating in the interview when this phase of the project commences.

The interview will be conducted via telephone or a video/tele conferencing platform, depending on your preference. It is expected that the discussion will take around 45 minutes, noting that this may vary depending on the level of detail provided in the responses.

Data gathered from the interviews will be recorded on an audio recording device or using the record function video/tele conferencing platform and transcribed following the interview. If you prefer to not have the interview recorded, written notes will be taken. You will have the opportunity to decide which option you would prefer prior to participating in the interview.

Please note that as we will be conducting a maximum of 20 follow up interviews, we may not contact all those who have indicated an interest. If we do not contact you please be assured that we appreciate your willingness to be involved.

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.

There is a possibility that the study will expose some farming practices that do not adhere to biosecurity guidelines. We would like to remind you of your obligation to report to authorities any suspicious animal health incidents.

The researchers have a series of educational resources from NSW DPI on exotic pig diseases, swill feeding and pig husbandry that can be provided to support reporting and corrective action should the need arise. For those who complete the survey anonymously, we will be unable to provide this support unless you contact us directly.

Please note, in the unlikely event that researchers hear of a suspected notifiable disease that is happening at the time of conducting the research and that it has not yet been reported, the researchers have the duty of advising the participant to report the disease and to report it if the participant does not.

How is this study being paid for?

This project is funded 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?

For those who **do not** choose to provide their contact details for the purpose of participating in the interviews, survey responses are anonymous and as such, it will not be possible to identify and remove individual data.

If you **do** provide your contact details, we are able to remove your data up to 2 weeks after you have submitted your responses

At the time of interview you will have the opportunity to request that information you have provided be removed from the record. Once the interview has been completed you will have up to two weeks to request that your data be removed, should you choose to longer participate in the research.

Please contact Lynne Hayes lhayes@csu.edu.au to discuss this.

How will my confidentiality be protected?

For those who **do not** choose to provide their contact details for the purpose of participating in the interviews, survey responses are anonymous and as such, you will not be identifiable in any reports or publications.

If you **do** provide your contact details your survey responses will not be anonymous at the time of data collection. Similarly, we will know your name and contact information at the time of the interview. Once we have completed the data analysis, contact details will be deleted. Please be assured that you will not be named or individually identified in any reports or publications related to these research activities. We will be reporting broad categories of participants so please consider this prior to deciding whether you would like to participate.

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

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 associated with the Charles Sturt University, Graham Centre for Agricultural Innovation and NSW Department of Primary Industry requirements. The outcomes may also be published in an appropriate scientific journal and/or presented at relevant conferences. The outcomes will also be included in the honours dissertation of the student involved in this research.

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

If you would like further information please contact:
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 would like to continue, proceed to the survey questions. Note that separate consent will be obtained for participation in the interviews.

*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 agreed to these statements and have submitted responses.

If you have any technical issues with the survey, please contact Lynne Hayes at lhayes@csu.edu.au or 02 6933 2802.