

Peacetime training in Risk Assessment for Foot and Mouth Disease Response Preparedness

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

AsureQuality Ltd is seeking veterinarians that are interested in training to carry out a leading role in the Risk Assessment workstream should a Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) response be initiated in New Zealand.

Risk Assessment Function

The risk assessment function in an FMD response is responsible for:

- evaluating the risk of a group of animals being infected with FMD;
- defining the surveillance and containment requirements to clarify the disease status of the animals, the legal status of the farm / place, and to mitigate spread of FMD; and
- determining what the surveillance results mean in the context of the response.

Purpose of the Training and the Role

The Risk Assessment team coordinates the evaluation of report cases (reports of suspected FMD from members of the public), tracing, lab results, and investigation information to allocate risk classifications in accordance with surveillance policy and specifications. Peacetime training is important for preparedness as people trained in this role would be required quickly and early in a FMD response. During this training, trainees will learn about Risk Assessment, its role within a FMD response, and what responsibilities the FMD Risk Assessment function would have.

What sort of person are you?

You have strong analytical skills, excellent attention to detail, an ability to identify and evaluate potential risks, excellent problem-solving skills, and the ability to communicate complex information in a clear and concise manner.

You can adapt to a rapidly changing environment as policies and information changes during a response. The ability to make quick decisions, provide advice and recommendations to response management on the risks identified and to escalate issues appropriately is paramount. Training others in the role is expected and your ability to work as a team member while also managing and leading others is important.

Ongoing Commitments

Trainees are expected to be available in the unlikely event of a FMD response. There would also be a requirement to attend or participate in refresher courses, should they be implemented, either in person or via online webinars. There may be a request, in future, to train others in Risk Assessment. Remuneration will be provided for your time, and you may also claim CPD points against your commitments.

Training Details

The training will be carried out over two days.

Tentative Dates: Wednesday 21st & Thursday 22nd June 2023.

Location: To be confirmed pending locations of interested people.

Remuneration: Will be negotiated on a case-by-case basis with successful applicants.

If interested (or have any questions), please send an email summarizing your relevant experience to:

FMDriskassessment@asurequality.com.

Deadline for applications: May 8th