



This project explored opportunities for the future development of early-warning alerts for diseases, pests and seasonal risks affecting dairy farms.

Providing early alerts is important to ensure necessary protective actions are in place as soon as possible or the appropriate investigations can begin promptly. Early alerts have potential benefits for individual herds, animal welfare, the dairy industry and national biosecurity.

The project reviewed existing information streams from industry, government and research activities that could potentially support more timely alerts and advisory information for farmers and advisors.

Targeted alerts, coupled with timely advisory information, would help farms respond more effectively to risks affecting pastures, crops and cattle.

### Outcomes

The team reviewed existing activities at the Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute (EMAI), Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD), University of Sydney and Scibus.

### Unlocking the potential of cows

Dairy UP's P2 project aimed to unlock the potential of dairy cows to achieve their genetic potential under NSW conditions.

P2 was a suite of seven projects that collectively explored ways to profitably increase both productivity and wellbeing in commercial settings.

P2a: Cattle Longevity

P2b: Early Alerts

P2c: Milk as a Diagnostic Tool

P2d: Diet and Heat Load

P2e: Calf Husbandry

P2f: Infectious Diseases ('Infectome')

P2g: Heifers Early Calving

This document provides a final update on P2b: Early Alerts.

The following priority targets for early alert systems were identified:

- Bovine ephemeral fever (3-day sickness).
- Fall army worm.
- Facial eczema.

The project also prepared the terms of reference for an industry panel to help guide future development of early alert systems. The concept has been supported by Dairy NSW and NSW DPIRD.

### Ephemeral fever

NSW DPIRD has published a [website](#) with online resources relating to bovine ephemeral fever to support farmer awareness and decision-making.



### Collaborators

The project was a collaboration between Scibus and NSW DPIRD.

### More info

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[P2 final report](#)

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#### Delivery organisations



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#### Partner organisations



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#### Additional program supporters, collaborations or partnerships

Charles Sturt University | DairyBio | DataGene | Eagle Direct | Entegra  
Macquarie University | NSW EPA | smaXtec | UC Davis | University of Technology Sydney

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