

NEW APPROACH TO JOHNE'S DISEASE IN CATTLE

FACT SHEET

Overview

The new, national approach to Johne's disease (JD) in cattle – the [BJD Framework](#) – offers a fresh approach to the management of the endemic disease. It focuses on managing on-farm biosecurity risk rather than controlling disease through regulation and treats JD as just one of many diseases that producers must manage within their business.

Supported by more flexible regulation, producers will be able to make informed decisions about the opportunities and risks associated with purchasing livestock.

New approach to JD in cattle... what does it mean for me?



Key changes

A number of changes will occur under the new 'JD in cattle' Framework.

- Deregulation and removal of zoning: most state/territory jurisdictions are on-track to remove regulation by 1 July 2016.
- Ceasing of quarantining of properties as a control measure.
- Movement to a market-driven approach where producers undertake practices dependent on market requirements.

Moving forward

To support producers during this transition period, additional steps will take place over the coming months:

- Provision of tools and resources i.e. a biosecurity checklist, risk profiling tool and Cooperative Biosecurity Group guidelines.
- Enhancement of existing National Cattle Health Declaration (formerly called the Cattle Health Statement) to reflect the new system.
- Hosting of public forums, to address any questions producers may have.
- Continuous updates on the [Animal Health Australia website](#) about the new approach to JD in cattle.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: What is the process I should follow when purchasing cattle from interstate?

A: JD requirements may differ between jurisdictions, at least for the short term. Before purchasing cattle, producers should consider all animal health and transport requirements for the state they are moving cattle to. For specific information they should see the relevant State or Territory department of agriculture or primary industries website. Information on livestock movements can also be found at:

www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/what-we-do/endemic-disease/livestock-movements/

Q: Where can I access tools and resources to help me with my on-farm biosecurity risk management?

A: The [Farm Biosecurity website](#) has a comprehensive suite of biosecurity information and tools for all livestock producers. Producers are urged to complete a Cattle Health Declaration (or equivalent) when selling cattle; buyers should insist on it.

Q: What do I do if my cattle have clinical signs consistent with JD (wasting and chronic diarrhoea)?

A: Producers should call a private or government veterinarian to investigate, just like they would for any other livestock health issue. Although a finding of JD is notifiable if you suspect or confirm the disease, there will be no other government action. Producers are free to decide what method they want to use to manage the disease in order to meet market requirements.

JD Counsellors are a valuable resource for producers:

- Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia and Western Australia: Mr David Allan, p: 0427 572 879.
- New South Wales & Queensland – Mr Campbell Trotter, p: 0411 249 125.

Q: How do I join a Cooperative Biosecurity Group?

A: The Cooperative Biosecurity Group guidelines will be available on the AHA website shortly. Groups can be made up of like-minded producers who, for example, have the same breed of cattle or who work within a particular region or supply network.

Q: What should I do during the evaluation process of CattleMAP?

A: If you are in CattleMAP and would like to continue with you current level of assurance, you need to continue all biosecurity practices. Because of the evaluation, testing requirements have been suspended until 1 November 2016.

Q: Will there be increased costs for me to manage JD in cattle due to the new approach?

A: Most producers already undertake some form of on-farm biosecurity so will see little change. Moving JD into the biosecurity model may lead to decreased costs associated with pests and diseases entering their property. The removal of quarantining allows producers to market their cattle, provided full disclosure of disease status is given.

Q: What role will the government play during the Framework's implementation?

A: State and Territory governments will revoke their BJD legislation, except for it remaining a notifiable disease. Government animal health staff will continue to provide technical advice and extension on the disease.

Q: Where can I go to find out more information about JD in cattle and the new Framework?

A: JD in cattle information is available on the AHA website at www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/what-we-do/endemic-disease/bovine-johnes-disease/. More information will be released as management tools are finalised.

Animal Health Australia

Animal Health Australia (AHA) works in partnership with our Members and other stakeholders to keep Australia free of new and emerging diseases and to improve animal health, enhance market access and foster the resilience of the Australian animal health system.

As with all the changes stemming from the implementation of the new national BJD Framework, AHA will continue to update and inform Australian producers and interested stakeholders throughout the reform process.

Learn more

w: animalhealthaustralia.com.au
e: johnes@animalhealthaustralia.com.au
p: 02 6232 5522