

The New Approach to Johne's Disease in Cattle

Information for beef cattle seedstock producers

As explained in the attached Fact Sheet the deregulation and removal of BJD Zones has been implemented by most states/territories on 1 July 2016. WA have indicated that they will retain their current regulations with regard to introduction of cattle for the foreseeable future. The responsibility for management of the risk of introducing Johne's disease to a herd will become the responsibility of the owner or manager of the herd rather than through regulation by government.

A Johne's Beef Assurance Score (J-BAS) is being developed to assist producers to assess the risk of introducing Johne's disease to their herd. This score can be declared on a new Cattle Health Declaration form, where required by the purchaser. Until these documents are finalised existing documentation should be utilised (e.g. current Cattle Health Statement).

The J-BAS is outlined in the document attached. However it does need some explanation which is provided below:

1. Herds currently in the Market Assurance Program (MAP) will remain as MAP herds pending the outcome of the review of MAP currently underway. As explained under "Transitional Arrangements" the herd will commence with the highest J-BAS score of 8. Should the MAP be discontinued the herd can maintain a herd at Score 8 by doing a Check Test (with negative results) of the most susceptible animals in the herd every three years and the employment of a veterinary adviser to conduct an annual review of the on farm Biosecurity Plan.
2. Herds in the current Free Zone (WA) will commence with a J-BAS score of 8. To maintain score 8 the producer must implement a Biosecurity Plan supervised by a veterinary adviser within the 12 months to 30 June 2017 and conduct a triennial Check Test with negative results. The herd does need to have a biosecurity plan in place for a minimum of 5 years to stay at score 8, however Western Australia's existing control system is counted towards the five year requirement.
3. Herds currently in the Protected Zone (Qld, NT and pastoral SA), the Beef Protected Zone (NSW and non-pastoral SA) or currently qualifies as a "Beef Only" herd in Management Zone (Vic and Tas) will commence with a J-BAS score of 7. To maintain score 7 the producer must implement an on farm Biosecurity Plan supervised by a veterinary adviser within the 12 months to 30 June 2017 and conduct a triennial Check Test (with negative results). The herd does need to have an on farm Biosecurity Plan for a minimum of 5 years to stay at score 7, however existing state/territory control systems are counted towards this requirement.
4. Where a herd has a J-BAS score of 7 or 8 for the transitional period but the owner does not wish to undertake Check Testing or employ a veterinary adviser to supervise their on farm Biosecurity Plan they can maintain a score of 6 by implementing their own Biosecurity Plan

before 30 June 2017. Part of the Biosecurity Plan would be to investigate all suspect cases and where there has been an infection to remove all high-risk animals.

5. A herd which has been previously infected with JD but has not had a clinical case for a minimum of two years, has removed all high-risk animals and has had a Biosecurity Plan in place for a minimum of two years will have a J-BAS score of 4. Once these herds have not had a clinical case of JD for at least 5 years and have maintained a Biosecurity Plan for at least 5 years, they can advance to score 6.
6. Herds which did not qualify as J-BAS score of 7 or 8 in the transitional period but have had no previous infection with JD and have implemented a Biosecurity Plan will be given a score of 4. Once these herds have not had a clinical case of JD for at least 5 years and have maintained a Biosecurity Plan for at least 5 years, they can advance to score 6.
7. An infected herd which has removed all clinical cases and has implemented a Biosecurity Plan will get a J-BAS score of 2.
8. Herds which do not have a Biosecurity Plan implemented by 30 June 2017 will have a J-BAS score of 0.

How does a producer establish a Biosecurity Plan?

National Farm Biosecurity Reference Manual - Grazing Livestock Production is available from the website farmbiosecurity.com.au and provides a template to use for the property biosecurity plan. It has specific cattle and animal disease sections which outline suggested practices to be included in a cattle Biosecurity Plan. All plans should include the JD in Cattle Biosecurity Plan Checklist.

A Biosecurity Management Plan module is likely to be available as part of LPA in the near future which could also be used.

Questions

If you have questions on the “New Approach to Johne’s Disease in Cattle” implemented on 1 July 2016 please contact your state department cattle Johne’s disease co-ordinator or JD Counsellors. Contacts are available from the Animal Health Australia website: animalhealthaustralia.com.au under Disease Information/Johne’s Disease/Johnes Disease Co-ordinators in states and territories.

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