

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 have occurred under the new JD in cattle Framework.

- Most states removed regulation on 1 July 2016. Western Australia will continue to regulate JD in cattle and the Northern Territory has interim arrangements in place. More information can be found on the [Department of Agriculture and Food WA website](#) and the [Northern Territory Government website](#).
- Ceasing of quarantining of properties as a control measure in most states.
- Movement to a market-driven approach where producers undertake practices dependent on market requirements.
- From November 2016, the Australian Johne's Disease Market Assurance Program for Cattle (CattleMAP) has transitioned to alternative industry assurance systems.

Tools

The following [tools](#) are available to assist producers:

- Revised National Cattle Health Declaration (formerly the Cattle Health Statement).
- A new voluntary risk profiling tool for beef cattle – the Johne's Beef Assurance Score (J-BAS) – and the revised Dairy Score for dairy herds.
- JD Biosecurity Checklist to assist producers determine questions they may want to ask about the JD history of livestock.
- Cooperative Biosecurity Group Guidelines for producers who wish to work together to enhance their biosecurity.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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

A: JD requirements may differ between jurisdictions. Before purchasing cattle, producers should consider all animal health and transport requirements for the state they are moving cattle to. For specific information see relevant state/territory department of agriculture websites. Information can also be found at:

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

Q: Will the new approach lead to increased costs?

A: Most producers undertake on-farm biosecurity, so will see little change. Moving JD into a 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: Many state and territory governments have revoked their JD in cattle legislation, except for it remaining a notifiable disease. Government animal health staff will continue to provide technical advice and extension on the disease.

Q: What do I do if my cattle have signs consistent with JD?

A: Producers should call a private or government veterinarian to investigate. Although a finding of JD is notifiable to your state or territory's department of primary industries or agriculture if you suspect or confirm the disease, in most jurisdictions there will be no other government action. In WA and the NT further actions may result after notification - producers should check with their departmental animal health officers about this.

Producers in other states are free to decide what method they want to use to manage the disease in order to meet their market requirements.

The JD Counsellor is a valuable resource for beef producers who have a detection of JD in their cattle:

- **Mr David Allan - P: 0427 572 879**

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 suite of biosecurity information and tools. Information is also available at the [Livestock Biosecurity Network website](#), including contact details.

Q: What was the outcome of the CattleMAP Review?

A: From 1 November 2016, it was decided to discontinue CattleMAP and replace it with alternative industry voluntary assurance systems.

More information related to these changes can be found on the [CattleMAP webpage](#).

Q: What alternative JD assurance systems are there?

A: There is a new voluntary risk profiling tool for beef cattle – the [Johnes Beef Assurance Score](#) (J-BAS). The [Dairy Score](#) has also been revised for dairy herds. Transitional arrangements for J-BAS end on 30 June 2017, so producers wanting to utilise it need to have their biosecurity plan in place by then.

Q: What happens if I was a previous CattleMAP participant?

A: From November 2016, CattleMAP herds have transitioned to a J-BAS of 8 or Dairy Score of 8; the highest assurance level. This level requires a property biosecurity plan monitored by a veterinary advisor and testing.

After November 2016, any herds wanting to continue with the higher assurance scores, should resume any testing that may be required for the relevant score. Participants should check the WA and NT entry requirements to make sure they are able to access these markets.

Q: How do I develop a farm biosecurity plan?

A: The *National Farm Biosecurity Reference Manual - Grazing Livestock Production* can be used as a basic biosecurity plan. Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) will soon require a biosecurity plan, commencing July 2017. The Livestock Biosecurity Network (LBN) website is a source of information, plans and contacts for the LBN Regional Managers. All plans should also include the JD Biosecurity Checklist to be eligible for J-BAS.

Q: Where can I find more information about the new approach to JD in cattle?

A: JD in cattle information is available on the Animal Health Australia [website](#).

Animal Health Australia

Animal Health Australia works in partnership with our Members and 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.

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Learn more

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