

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.

- Deregulation and removal of zoning: most state jurisdictions removed regulation by 1 July 2016, while other jurisdictions are still consulting with industry.
- Ceasing of quarantining of properties as a control measure.
- Movement to a market-driven approach where producers undertake practices dependent on market requirements.
- As of 1 November 2016, the Australian Johne's Disease Market Assurance Program for Cattle (CattleMAP) will transition 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.
- Updates on Animal Health Australia [website](#).

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: State and territory governments are expected to 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: 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 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 their 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, NT & Queensland –
Mr Campbell Trotter, p: 0411 249 125.

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.

Q: How do I join a Cooperative Biosecurity Group?

A: Guidelines can be accessed on the [JD in cattle tools](#) webpage.

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](#).

Q: What did the evaluation of CattleMAP Report find?

A: The independent consultants found that:

- CattleMAP numbers had fallen dramatically
- participants said it was difficult to obtain market benefits
- consequences of false positive test results had been a deterrent
- current arrangements were no longer suitable.

Q: What was the outcome of the CattleMAP Report?

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.

Q: What happens if I'm a current CattleMAP participant?

A: As of 1 November 2016, CattleMAP herds will transition 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.

Post 1 November 2016, any herds wanting to continue with the higher assurance scores, should resume any testing that may be required for the relevant score.

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](#).