

# Johne's disease management in Queensland

A new risk-based Johne's disease management approach commenced in Queensland on 1 July 2016. The new approach provides greater flexibility for producers managing Johne's disease on their property and reduces regulatory burden on the industry.

The outcomes of the national review of Johne's disease management provide the framework for these changes to occur. The new national framework shifts the focus from government centric regulatory protection to market-driven industry management of Johne's disease risk.

This approach is consistent with the shared responsibility and risk-based decision making concepts of the *Biosecurity Act 2014* which commenced on 1 July 2016.

The regulation of livestock entry from other Australian states and quarantining of Johne's disease affected properties have been discontinued.

Under the new approach producers have the opportunity and obligation to do what is reasonable and practical to minimise the likelihood and impacts of Johne's disease in ways that suit them best. Producers should learn about Johne's disease and include measures in their property biosecurity management plan to prevent or minimise its occurrence.

Most producers do not need to change the way they manage Johne's disease risk but they do need to be more deliberate in the decisions they make.

## Safely purchasing and selling livestock

Producers introducing livestock onto their properties should seek assurances about the health of the livestock as part of their property biosecurity management plans.

When purchasing livestock, producers should assess and manage the associated Johne's disease risk. Certain situations will increase the risk of Johne's disease spread and producers are required to assess those risks every time they purchase new livestock.

Johne's disease is most commonly spread by the movement of infected livestock.

The new framework provides flexibility for livestock producers to take the level of biosecurity precautions necessary depending on the risk for their particular situation.

## Health statements/declarations

The simplest way producers can seek assurances about the health status of livestock they wish to purchase is to request a written health statement or declaration.

If a health statement or declaration is unclear or does not include sufficient detail, a producer may ask for more information, reject the animals as unsatisfactory, or accept the animals and appropriately manage the risk.

National health statement and declaration templates are available from **[www.farmbiosecurity.com.au](http://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au)**.

Use the links in the 'Further information' section below for guides and supporting tools for the national templates. The tools include simple risk-scoring systems for beef cattle (J-BAS) and dairy cattle (Dairy Score), and a Johne's disease biosecurity checklist

While the health statement or declaration is a key tool in assessing the risk of introducing Johne's disease, producers must also take appropriate on-farm measures to reduce the likelihood of spreading Johne's disease. For high-risk animals, this may include isolating the animals, culling, retaining them only for growing out and fattening and slaughter, decontaminating paddocks after exit or monitoring health by regular testing.

## Higher risk livestock purchases

There is a higher risk of introducing Johne's disease when purchasing livestock from properties confirmed or suspected to have had Johne's disease or when purchasing livestock from high-risk areas or industry sectors, especially those with incomplete historical records.

High-risk animals include:

- Dairy or dairy-cross cattle from Tasmania, Victoria, NSW and South Australia, unless those cattle have a CattleMAP status of MN1 or better or a Dairy Assurance Score of 8 or better.
- Cattle, which when under 12 months of age, have grazed on land that was also grazed by high-risk sheep or cattle.
- Livestock from a property which is known or suspected to be infected with Johne's disease, unless the animals are shown to be low-risk individuals.



- Sheep from the central and southern highlands of NSW, or Victoria or Tasmania, unless those sheep originate from a Regional Biosecurity Plan area; or from a property which has a SheepMAP status of MN1 or better, or is a closed flock and has been tested negative by a PFC350 test or Abattoir Monitoring 500 test in the previous 2 years.

The risk of establishing Johne's disease once it has been introduced is higher for properties where livestock are retained, such as for breeding or wool or milk production, rather than held for a short period for fattening and slaughter.

## Lower risk livestock purchases

For dairy cattle, low risk would be indicated if the cattle have not been on a property which is known or suspected of Johne's disease infection, or from an interstate property which has a CattleMAP status of MN1, MN2 or MN3.

The risk of establishing Johne's disease is lower when animals are kept in isolation for short periods of time, such as backgrounding, feed lotting or they are consigned direct to slaughter.

## What happens if my livestock are infected with Johne's disease?

If you suspect your livestock may have Johne's disease, isolate the suspect livestock and contact Biosecurity Queensland on **13 25 23**.

Under the new approach, Biosecurity Queensland will not restrict livestock movement or quarantine your property. Biosecurity Queensland will direct you to information that will assist you in understanding and managing Johne's disease. You will need to take practical and reasonable steps to contain the infection on your property and reduce the risk of spreading the disease further.

Producers should work with their local veterinarian to manage and meet their obligation regarding Johne's disease.

## Compliance monitoring and industry support

Biosecurity Queensland will undertake a Surveillance Program to monitor compliance with the new Johne's disease framework. Biosecurity Queensland will work with livestock producers to refine guidelines for managing the risk of Johne's disease infection.

## Further information

For further information on Johne's disease management in Queensland contact Biosecurity Queensland on **13 25 23** or visit [www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au](http://www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au).

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 [twitter.com/BiosecurityQld](https://twitter.com/BiosecurityQld)

 [youtube.com/BiosecurityQld](https://youtube.com/BiosecurityQld)

## Additional resources

Who	What	Where
<b>Biosecurity Queensland</b>	Guidelines for meeting biosecurity obligations for Johne's disease; Johne's Disease Surveillance Program	Phone <b>13 25 23</b> or visit <a href="http://www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au">www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au</a>
<b>Farm Biosecurity website</b>	Biosecurity planning; Templates of national health statements/declarations for each livestock species	<a href="http://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au">www.farmbiosecurity.com.au</a>
<b>Animal Health Australia</b>	Johne's Beef Assurance Score (J-BAS); JD Biosecurity Checklist; Cooperative Biosecurity Group Guidelines; JD in cattle Definitions and Guidelines; Links to Farm Biosecurity and the Cattle Health Declaration	<a href="https://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/jd-cattle-tools/">https://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/jd-cattle-tools/</a>
<b>Dairy Australia</b>	Managing Johne's disease for dairy farmers; Dairy Score	<a href="http://www.dairyaustralia.com.au">www.dairyaustralia.com.au</a>
<b>Ovine Johne's Disease website</b>	Johne's disease in sheep	<a href="http://www.ojd.com.au">www.ojd.com.au</a>

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