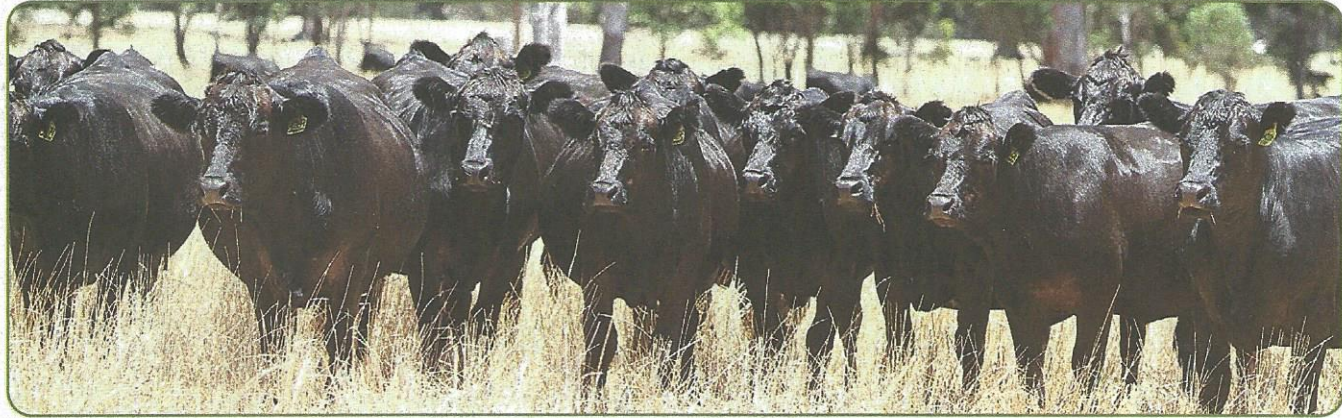


LET'S PROTECT WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S CATTLE INDUSTRY FROM BOVINE JOHNES DISEASE

Western Australia is the only state in Australia to be declared free of Bovine Johnes Disease BJD.

Proposed plans to deregulate BJD controls across Australia could reverse this and severely impact the state's dairy and beef industries. The disease, which can be spread through the introduction of an infected animal or through contact with fluids or excrement from an infected animal, poses a significant threat to Western Australia's cattle industry and its potential to supply international markets and may cost you in more ways than you think.



Financially

Herd costs to prove BJD freedom
will fall on individual cattle
businesses and not shared
across the industry as it is now.

Management

Additional herd management
practices will drive up costs.
Ineffective diagnostic tests mean
more testing and more cost.

Market Access

A positive animal will shut you out
of key export markets for five
years. Some countries demand
area freedom.
A positive animal could devalue
your cattle at domestic sales.

BJD IS AN INSIDIOUS DISEASE WITH NO KNOWN CURE

The disease causes cattle to become infected and shed the *Mycobacterium paratuberculosis* bacteria through their dung, colostrum, milk and across the placenta to unborn calves. While animals can appear healthy for many years, the bacteria can be spreading through the herd silently for years before the first animal shows clinical signs of BJD. By this time, it would be a large undertaking to manage the disease in your herd. Once your herd is recognised as BJD infected, it will potentially shut you out of some important markets.

AVOIDING THE PURCHASE OF INFECTED STOCK IS VERY DIFFICULT

BJD infection can lie dormant for years, and infected animals rarely test positive until they have been infected for many years. Therefore, younger breeding animals that test negative must not be assumed to be free from BJD.

HOW DOES DEREGULATION AFFECT YOU?

Diagnostic tests used to identify infected animals can be unreliable, inefficient, time consuming and costly. If you get a false positive it will cost you a lot more in further testing to avoid your property being reported as positive for BJD.

A change in the current system of managing BJD in WA would result in increased cost to all cattle producers via the costs of testing and managing BJD being forced upon each individual producer. Whilst also leading to the very strong likelihood of an increase in the prevalence of BJD within WA over time and the loss of our BJD free zone status, which has been maintained for a very long time.



Business costs per property	↑	Daily production	↓
Spread	↑	Lifetime production	↓
Prevalence	↑	Property's financial stability	↓
International export	↓	Likelihood of mental health problems or illnesses	↑

DOES THIS SOUND LIKE THE BEST FUTURE FOR WA'S CATTLE INDUSTRY

WAFARMERS STRONGLY OPPOSES THE DEREGULATION OF BJD IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

HAVE YOUR SAY

Register your position by phoning WAFarmers (08) 9486 2100 or online at: www.wafarmers.org.au

ARE YOU:

- Against deregulation – Keep WA's cattle herd free from BJD
- For deregulation – manage and pay for the disease risk myself

Sponsored by WAFarmers Stud Cattle Breeders and Associations

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