NATIONAL APPROACH TO JOHNE'S DISEASE IN CATTLE

OVERVIEW

The current national approach to Johne's disease (JD) in cattle – the JD Framework – offers a fresh approach to the management of the endemic disease. It focuses on managing on-farm biosecurity risks 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.

KEY CHANGES

A number of changes have occurred under the JD in cattle Framework:

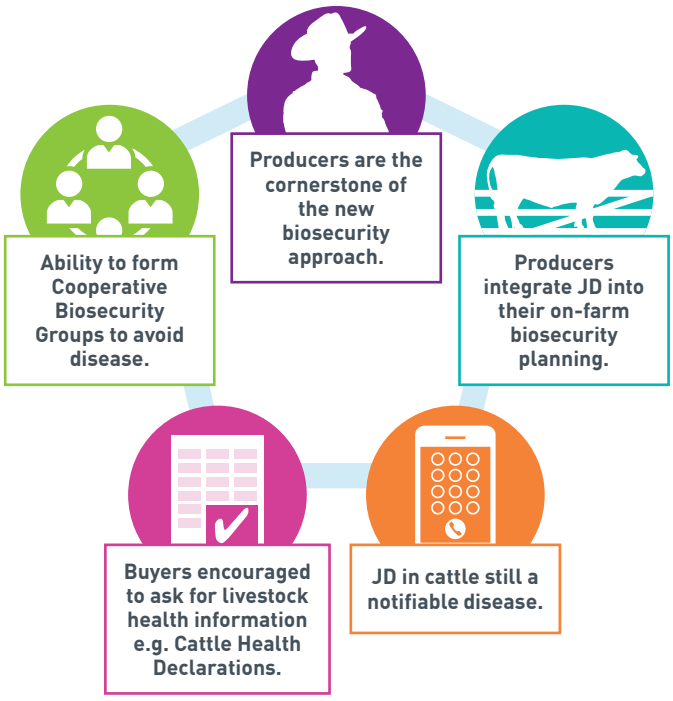
- Most state jurisdictions removed regulation on 1 July 2016. WA and the NT continue to regulate JD. More information can be found on the Department of Agriculture and Food WA website (**www.agric.wa.gov.au/livestock-biosecurity/johnes-disease-cattle**) and the NT Government website (**https://nt.gov.au/industry/agriculture/livestock/moving-and-exporting-livestock/moving-livestock-into-the-nt**).
- 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.

TOOLS

The following tools are available to assist producers:

- National Cattle Health Declaration (formerly the Cattle Health Statement).
- A 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 in determining 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.

New approach to JD in cattle... what does it mean for me?



FAQS

What process should I follow when purchasing cattle from interstate?

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**

Will the new approach lead to increased costs?

Most producers undertake on-farm biosecurity, so they 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.

What role do government staff play in the new approach to JD management?

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.

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

Producers should call a private or government veterinarian to investigate. Although a finding of JD is notifiable if you suspect or confirm the disease, in most jurisdictions 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. In WA and NT further actions may result after notification – producers should check with their departmental animal health officers about this.

How can we form a Cooperative Biosecurity Group?

Guidelines can be accessed on the '*JD in cattle tools*' webpage (**www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/jd-cattle-tools**)

Where can I access tools and resources to help me with my on-farm biosecurity risk management?

The Farm Biosecurity Website (**www.farmbiosecurity.com.au**) has a suite of biosecurity information and tools. Information is also available at the Livestock Biosecurity Network (LBN) website (**www.lbn.org.au**), including contact details for the regional managers.

What JD assurance systems are there?

There is a voluntary risk profiling tool for beef cattle – the J-BAS (**www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/jd-cattle-tools**). The Dairy Score (**www.dairyaustralia.com.au/Animal-management/Animal-health/Bovine-Johnes-Disease.aspx**) has also been revised for dairy herds.

What is J-BAS?

J-BAS is risk profiling tool developed for use in the new approach to JD in beef cattle. The scoring system is from 0 (being 'Unmanaged Risk') to 8 ('High Assurance'). The scores have been developed to allow producers to communicate to buyers of their cattle what JD risk they believe the cattle represent.

The voluntary, self-assessed score requires having a biosecurity plan for the property and is based on history of JD on the property and what testing might have been done. Producers should ask further questions if worried about JD, and not just focus on the score alone. There is a checklist on the Animal Health Australia (AHA) website to help with questions that could be asked (under *'JD in cattle tools'*).

How do I develop a farm biosecurity plan?

The *On-farm Biosecurity Plan template* has been developed to help producers develop a plan and can be found on the AHA website (**www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/plan**). LBN and Livestock Production Assurance have also produced a detailed template a producer can use (**www.lbn.org/farm-biosecurity-tools/planning-tools**).

Australian Cattle Veterinarians have developed a program, BioCHECK to work with their clients on developing a property plan. It's up to the producer to choose which plan to use; those listed above all have a similar outcome.

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

JD in cattle information is available on the AHA website **www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/new-approach-jd-cattle**