

Biosecurity plan checklist - Johne's disease in cattle

Johne's disease risk is just one part of a farm biosecurity plan. This document should be used in conjunction with the *National Farm Biosecurity Reference Manual - Grazing Livestock Production* which is available from www.farmbiosecurity.com.au

The purpose of this checklist is to provide advice about:

- (a) the components of a farm biosecurity plan that are specific to Johne's disease
- (b) things to think about when assessing the risk of Johne's disease when purchasing cattle.

The Biosecurity principles below refer to those described in the National Farm Biosecurity Reference Manual described above.

Principle 1 – Livestock

Manage the introduction and movement of livestock in a way that minimises the risk of introducing or spreading infectious disease (in this case Johne's disease)

Before purchasing stock, you will need to assess your individual Johne's disease risk requirement. This will vary from enterprise to enterprise. For example, a stud farm may be particularly focussed on ensuring they do not purchase Johne's disease infected cattle, whereas on a farm that purchases young stock for fattening and sale, Johne's disease may be less important. Not all of the items in this checklist will be appropriate for all properties.

Issue	Comment
Cattle Health Declaration (CHD)	All purchases should be accompanied by a CHD which should be retained (for at least 7 years) Consider: Does property of origin hold CHD for all purchases? Does the CHD consider the risk of all properties during lifetime, especially between birth and 12 months of age?
Johne's Beef Assurance Score (J-BAS)	Request the J-BAS of the cattle being bought Consider: Aim for equivalent or higher score (lower risk), OR Match to your situation and risk profile
Biosecurity plan	Does the property of origin have a biosecurity plan? What are the specifics of JD management on the source property, and how do they match my own standards?
Dairy risk for beef industry	Have the cattle had (potential) exposure to dairy animals or land? The Dairy Assurance Score for dairy cattle or dairy-cross animals is equivalent in terms of risk to the J-BAS
JD in sheep risk	Have the cattle had exposure to JD in sheep (or land on which infected sheep have grazed)? Consider:

	<p>What is the JD status of the sheep (e.g. JD test negative/infected/unknown)?</p> <p>Are the sheep from a SheepMAP flock or Regional Biosecurity Plan Area for JD in sheep?</p> <p>What is the sheep JD vaccination (Gudair®) history; e.g. are all the sheep approved vaccinates and when did vaccination commence?</p>
History – Infection	<p>Is there a history of JD infection on the source property?</p> <p>Consider:</p> <p>When the infections occurred, how were they diagnosed and what action has been taken to resolve the infection (if any)</p>
History - Suspicion	<p>Is there a history of suspicion around clinical signs that might suggest JD on the property?</p> <p>Consider:</p> <p>Details - When, what signs, how investigated, results, etc?</p> <p>What action has been taken to resolve, if any?</p>
History - introductions	<p>Is there a history of introduction of cattle from a herd where infection has been confirmed?</p> <p>Consider:</p> <p>Details - Introduction details, how investigated, results, etc?</p> <p>What action has been taken to resolve, if any?</p>
Previous negative herd testing	<p>The CHD provides some information, but you may consider requesting more details.</p> <p>Consider:</p> <p>What additional testing has been undertaken, if any?</p> <p>Sample test: When?</p> <p>Check test: When?</p> <p>Other? Details: e.g. negative results from investigation of suspect cases or cattle with clinical signs of JD</p>
Vaccinated	<p>Are the cattle vaccinated with Silirum®? Has Silirum been used on the origin property as a JD management tool?</p>

Your Biosecurity plan also needs to account for risks to stock after you have purchased them.

Issue	Comment
Boundary fences	<p>Regular inspection and maintenance to keep stock-proof</p> <p>Consider double fencing high-risk boundaries</p>
Gates and grids	<p>Regular inspection and maintenance, gates kept closed</p>
Strays	<p>Documented plan for dealing with strays</p> <p>Consider strays both onto and off property</p> <p>Assess potential risk and treat accordingly on case-by-case basis</p>

Principle 5 – Animal Health Management

Prevent and control animal diseases on farm by regularly monitoring livestock health

Issue	Comment
Investigate/notify suspect cases	Any suspect clinical cases investigated and notified to CVO, in accordance with state legislation
Minimise potential exposure to infection or risk of infection	Identify high-risk animals and prioritise for culling <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Suspect) Clinical cases • Dam, progeny and maternal siblings of clinical cases • Calfhood cohorts of clinical cases • Test-positive animals • Animals originating from high-risk sources
	Don't graze young animals in high-risk areas (e.g. adjacent to high-risk neighbours, with infected sheep, on land grazed by clinical or suspect cases)
	JD vaccination of calves
Manage JD risk from sheep	Determine the JD status of sheep on the property (through on-farm testing or abattoir monitoring)
	Vaccinate sheep if infected or at-risk for JD flock (vaccination with Gudair® by 16 weeks of age)
	Minimise cattle, and particularly calves, co-grazing with sheep
Manage risk from other species	Evaluate potential risk from other species (goats/alpaca/deer) and implement measures as appropriate
Declaration	Producers must be truthful when completing Health Declarations
Spread to other herds	If infection is detected, assess risks within the herd and notify people who have previously received cattle as low-risk to enable them to manage their revised risk.

Principle 7: Carcass, effluent and waste management

Disposal of dead animals and waste is managed to minimise the spread of disease

Issue	Comment
Manure/effluent	Affected waterways have been found to spread JD. Potential sources of manure or effluent, including cross-boundary waterways, identified and treated to minimise risk of spreading infection