



Victorian Farmers Federation Livestock Group

Livestock Factsheet

» Bovine Johne's Disease – Zones and Trading



Bovine Johne's Disease (BJD) is a fatal infectious wasting disease of cattle, sheep, goats, alpaca and deer caused by bacterial infection.

It is a notifiable disease in all states and territories of Australia. While evidence indicates BJD is endemic in the dairy industry in south-eastern Australia, it is relatively uncommon in beef herds but will establish and spread readily if the herd is exposed to infected animals or pastures.

Why manage the disease at farm level?

There are a number of reasons why we should manage BJD on a national level for trade; however the disease also impacts producers at farm level:

- If left uncontrolled the rate of infection in the herd can increase significantly.
- It can cause wasting and death in your herd, especially during times of stress (e.g. lactation, drought).
- Stud producers can be particularly affected by BJD due to loss of valuable stock, reputation and clients.
- Producers' ability to freely trade interstate is also limited due to the prevalence of BJD in Victoria.

See the PDF Bovine Johne's Disease resource for further detail on the disease.

Changes to the BJD Strategic Plan

Changes have been made to the National BJD Strategic Plan that will come into effect on 1 July, 2012.

The plan has been reviewed by industry and government to identify improvements and to reflect the changing needs of producers for the management, control and prevention of BJD.

The objectives of the National BJD Strategic Plan are to minimise contamination of farms and farm products, protect non-infected herds while minimising disruption to trade and to minimise the social, economic and trade impact of BJD at herd, regional and national levels.

This resource outlines the changes to the program, zoning and trading for Victorian beef producers.

BJD Zones and Areas

All states and territories of Australia are zoned according to their prevalence of BJD and measures implemented to control BJD.

As of 1 July, 2012, Victoria will be classified as a Management Area, recognising BJD is endemic in Victoria's dairy industry.

The map below reflects the new zoning across the country, outlining the Management Area, Beef Protected Areas, Protected and Free Zones



Map provided by DPI Victoria

Management Area

The Management Area covers all of Victoria and mainland Tasmania and King Island.

Beef producers in Victoria should manage the risk of BJD entering their herds through prior risk assessment of any animals that are to be agisted or purchased.

Eligible beef producers in Victoria who wish to protect their BJD status and provide a measure of assurance for their clients should use the **Beef Only** declaration or enter the CattleMAP program. Assurance is important when selling and buying cattle.

The dairy industry will continue to encourage dairy producers to voluntarily control and manage BJD through the 3-Step Calf Plan, Johne's Disease Calf Accreditation Program the National Dairy BJD Score to provide assurance for risk-based trading of dairy cattle.

Beef Only

The **Beef Only** category was introduced after animal health authorities agreed that cattle from beef herds not exposed to dairy cattle pose a low risk of being infected with BJD and therefore spreading the disease.

The **Beef Only** declaration provides a pathway for beef producers to trade cattle at low risk of the disease into Protected Areas of Queensland, New South Wales, Northern Territory and South Australia, without having been tested.

To qualify for **Beef Only** status:

- Cattle must be from a beef herd that has not grazed with dairy cattle* at any time during the previous five years, unless those cattle were enrolled in CattleMAP or equivalent.
- Are those cattle that have not, at any time in the past, grazed on land that has been grazed by adult dairy cattle (24 months or older) during the 12 months before the arrival of the beef herd, unless those dairy cattle were part of a CattleMAP herd or are of equivalent status.
- Are those cattle where any animals introduced into the herd or onto the property(s) have come from herds of the same (i.e. **Beef Only**) status or higher. Evidence to support this claim (i.e. NVD) is necessary.

- Does not include animals that have been part of a herd that is classified as Infected (IN), Suspect (SU) or Restricted (RD) according to the current National Johne's Disease Standard Definitions, Rules and Guidelines for cattle.

***Note**

For the purpose of a **Beef Only** declaration, dairy cattle are defined as;

- Any cattle of a dairy breed
- Any cattle that are first generation dairy-cross breeds
- Any other cattle that have been born, reared, or run on a property that included a registered dairy herd at the time those cattle were present.

A **Beef Only** declaration can be made using the National Animal Health Statement.

Remember, cattle health statements are statutory declarations, meaning they are legally binding. When signing this document, ensure you have met all criteria.

What if I have beef and dairy cattle on my property?

If you run beef and adult dairy cattle on the same property, are not enrolled in CattleMAP and wish to trade interstate, you may need to look at separating your beef and dairy herds to be eligible for the **Beef Only** status.

For further information contact your private veterinarian or local DPI Animal Health staff.

Cattle Market Assurance Program

Producers can enter the voluntary Johne's Disease Market Assurance Program for cattle (CattleMAP), as part of the effort to control BJD.

- The CattleMAP program aims to identify, protect and promote herds that are at low risk of being infected with BJD.
- The program is based on a testing regime as well as on-property and herd biosecurity management, which are assessed by Approved Veterinarians.
- Blood tests for herds that return a negative result are given a Monitored Negative (MN) status. Depending on the number of tests carried out in specific time-frames, a status of MN1, MN2 or MN3 is allocated – MN3 being the highest level of assurance.
- Participation in the CattleMAP program requires producers to have a good level of farm biosecurity, including herd and property management to prevent the introduction of BJD.
- Cattle enrolled in the program are not guaranteed to be free of BJD but gives owners and buyers confidence that cattle enrolled in the program have a low risk of being infected with BJD.
- The program also opens up trade into states that have a higher status.

Talk to an approved veterinarian about how to get started, visit the Animal Health Australia website for more information on the Market Assurance Programs or download the CattleMAP Manual.

Trading

Victorian producers need to meet certain requirements when trading into states with a higher status, unless the herd is enrolled in CattleMAP, tested negative or is eligible to make a **Beef Only** declaration. These offer greater assurance that the herd is at low risk of being infected with the disease.

Within Victoria

A voluntary declaration of BJD status is encouraged for both purchasers and vendors of cattle. To do this, a **Beef Only** declaration (National Animal Health Statement for BJD Status of Beef Cattle) can be used for beef cattle.

A revised National Animal Health Statement will shortly be available and this will replace the above declaration.

For dairy cattle, the Dairy Score can be declared on the National Vendor Declaration or on a BJD Assurance Score Declaration form.

Buyers should only purchase cattle from herds of at least the same or higher BJD assurance level.

Owners of cattle herds in Victoria known to be Infected or Suspected are obliged to advise prospective purchases of their BJD status. There may be further restrictions on movement on some animals from Infected herds.

Interstate

A signed Cattle Health Statement is mandatory when trading cattle interstate from Victoria.

The table below lists the requirements for movement of livestock from Victoria into each state.

You should contact the primary industries department in the destination state to confirm the requirements before movement.

| Livestock movement to | Requirements |
|--|---|
| Beef Protected Area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSW • South-east SA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory health statement. • MN1 CattleMAP status OR Beef Only. |
| Protected Zone: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • QLD • NT • SA pastoral zone • Flinders Island | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory health statement. • MN1 CattleMAP status OR Beef Only. |
| Free Zone: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory health statement. • MN1 CattleMAP status. |

For requirements for movement of livestock from and to Victoria see the DPI website.

Testing and rebate scheme

Cattle Council of Australia provides a rebate to beef producers who undertake BJD testing to identify their herd's status to comply with interstate movement requirements, or to maintain a status as part of CattleMAP.

See the Animal Health website for MAP contacts for each state.

FNF assistance and contact

The National BJD Financial and Non-Financial (FNF) Assistance Package provides assistance to owners of infected and suspect beef herds and aims to reduce the prevalence of BJD and the stigma attached to infected herds.

For more information visit the Animal Health Australia website or contact:

David Allan, BJD Counsellor

P: 0427 572 879

E: david.a.allan@bigpond.com



Victorian Farmers
Federation

Victoria Farmers Federation

Farrer House, Level 5, 24 Collins St
Melbourne, Victoria, 3000

Telephone: 1300 882 833

Fax: 03 9207 5500

VFF@VFF.org.au

www.VFF.org.au

Take home BJD Zones messages:

- The revised National BJD Strategic Plan will come into effect on 1 July, 2012.
- Victoria will be classified as a Management Area as of 1 July.
- Beef producers in Victoria should manage the risk of BJD entering their herds through risk assessment of any agisted or purchased animals.
- Phone your vet, local DPI or the **Disease Watch Hotline on 1800 657 888 if you suspect FMD.**

For further information, please contact the VFF Livestock Group on 1300 882 833 or by email to Zoe Moroz on zmoroz@vff.org.au

Links

Animal Health Australia – BJD
www.bjdaware.com.au

CattleMAP Manual
<http://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/programs/johnes-disease/market-assurance-programs-maps/cattlemap-manual/>

VIC DPI – Beef Only
<http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/agriculture/pests-diseases-and-weeds/animal-diseases/beef-and-dairy-cows/bovine-johnes-disease/beef-only>

Beef Only statement
<http://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/programs/johnes-disease/bovine-johnes-disease-in-australia/beef-only-assurance-for-bjd/>

VIC DPI – BJD
<http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/agriculture/pests-diseases-and-weeds/animal-diseases/beef-and-dairy-cows/bovine-johnes-disease>

NSW DPI – Bovine Johnes's disease
<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/livestock/health/specific/cattle/bjd>

The National BJD Strategic Plan
<http://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/programs/johnes-disease/bovine-johnes-disease-in-australia/the-national-bjd-strategic-plan/>

3-Step Calf Plan
<http://www.dairyaustralia.com.au/Animals-feed-and-environment/Animal-health/Bovine-Johnes-Disease.aspx>

Johne's Disease Calf Accreditation Program
<http://www.dairyaustralia.com.au/Animals-feed-and-environment/Animal-health/Bovine-Johnes-Disease.aspx>

National Dairy BJD Score
<http://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/programs/johnes-disease/bovine-johnes-disease-in-australia/national-dairy-assurance-score/>

National Animal Health Statement
<http://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2011/04/Beef-Only-AHS.pdf>

Approved Veterinarians
<http://www.animalhealth.com.au/apav/UserInterface/Home.aspx>

Market Assurance Programs
<http://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/programs/johnes-disease/market-assurance-programs-maps/>

CattleMAP Manual
<http://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/programs/johnes-disease/market-assurance-programs-maps/cattlemap-manual/>

Beef Only declaration (National Animal Health Statement for BJD Status of Beef Cattle)
<http://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2011/04/Beef-Only-AHS.pdf>

BJD Assurance Score Declaration form
<http://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2011/04/Dairy-BJD-Assurance-Declaration-form.pdf>

VIC DPI Requirements for moving livestock out of Victoria
<http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/agriculture/about-agriculture/legislation-regulation/animal-welfare-legislation/interstate-movements/requirements-for-moving-livestock-out-of-victoria>

VIC DPI Cattle – Entry Requirements for Victoria
<http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/agriculture/about-agriculture/legislation-regulation/animal-welfare-legislation/interstate-movements/livestock-entry-requirements-for-victoria/cattle>

MAP contacts for each state
<http://www.animalhealth.com.au/apav/UserInterface/Home.aspx>

The Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF), its partners, agents and contractors do not guarantee that this publication is without flaw and do not accept any liability whatsoever for any errors, defects or omissions in the information provided. This publication is intended for general information purposes only and does not constitute financial, legal, investment, production or marketing advice. The VFF excludes all liability for any loss or damage of any kind arising in relation to this publication including any reliance on the information contained herein.

Original Author, Zoe Moroz (VFF Livestock Project Officer), Original Version Published in June 2012



Victorian Farmers
Federation

Victoria Farmers Federation
Farrer House, Level 5, 24 Collins St
Melbourne, Victoria, 3000
Telephone: 1300 882 833
Fax: 03 9207 5500
VFF@VFF.org.au
www.VFF.org.au