

Agisting cattle in the Western Division

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At times when seasonal conditions are favourable, large numbers of cattle move into the Western Division. The aim is to take advantage of the abundance of feed available at those times.

There are, however, some very important considerations that should be taken into account before you agist someone else's cattle on your own Western Division property.

Contact the local Livestock Health and Pest Authority

If you plan to send your cattle away for agistment, your first step should be to make contact with the Livestock Health and Pest Authority (formerly Rural Lands Protection Board) in the area where you are sending cattle. The map below will help you to identify the Livestock Health and Pest Authority that you need to speak with – they will be able to explain further the requirements listed here.

Warning. Not abiding by the regulations can lead to significant penalties.

Identification

It is the responsibility of the cattle owner or the person in charge of the cattle to ensure that all cattle, including calves and bulls, are fitted with an approved NLIS device before leaving the property of origin. These devices may be:

- an NLIS approved ear device, or
- a rumen bolus with matching management ear tag indicating that the animal has a bolus.

Disease status

The Western Division of NSW is a bovine John's Disease (BJD) protected zone. Cattle from higher disease risk areas, called BJD residual zones or control zones, must meet certain conditions prior to movement to the Western Division.

Tasmania is a **residual zone**.

Control zones cover all of Victoria, parts of NSW and part of South Australia.

Protected zones cover all of Queensland, the northern pastoral zone of South Australia, and most of NSW.

Livestock Health and Pest Authority districts



Maps of BJD zones can be found on the web at

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/bjd> or
<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/livestock/health/specific/cattle/bjd>

Cattle moving from a BJD residual or control zone to the Western Division will need to have documented evidence that cattle are

- from a herd enrolled in the Australian Johne's Disease Market Assurance Program for Cattle (CattleMAP), or
- a BJD Check Tested herd, or
- a herd which meets the 'Beef Only' criteria.

Allowing movement of breeding cattle onto your Western Division property from a bovine Johne's disease residual or control zone requires evidence they have a lower disease risk. Failure to meet these requirements could result in exposing your own herd to the risk of BJD, quarantine restrictions or legal prosecution. From 31 March 2008, cattle from dairy holdings should be score 8.

As the property owner you should ensure that the owner of the cattle fully understands the requirements to introduce cattle into the Western Division by contacting their local Livestock Health and Pest Authority.

Movement documentation

As the owner of the agistment property you need to collect and retain all documentation for the cattle you agist. Contact your local Livestock Health and Pest Authority for details.

Notifying the NLIS database of the movement

The owner of the cattle, or the person in charge of the cattle, is responsible for ensuring that cattle are legally identified and movement is recorded on the NLIS database. This must be done within 7 days and to allow this the property owner must give their PIC to the owner of the stock.

There are several ways that the NLIS database can be notified of a movement.

Do it yourself: you will need to establish an NLIS database account by going to www.nlis.mla.com.au and following the prompts to 'Create a new Account'. Note that it can take up to 7 days for your account details to be verified and your password to be issued.

- Or use a third party provider, e.g. stock agent, scanning contractor or Livestock Health and Pest Authority.

Using your personal NLIS database account, you can submit your own record of cattle movements. To accurately record the movement of cattle you can:

- electronically scan the NLIS devices with a NLIS scanner, or

- create an electronic file using NLIS software, or submit the NLIS numbers and movement details (including PIC and dates) to the NLIS database via a database account.

Contracts

Given the arrangements and responsibilities for various people in agisting cattle, consider the value of preparing and agreeing on a written contract with the owner of the cattle.

Penalty

Warning. Failure to meet NLIS identification and movement recording requirements or compliance with BJD requirements is an offence and offenders may face significant penalties.

Further information

For more information on NLIS regulations in NSW visit the DPI website at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au.

For more information on NLIS you can call direct to Meat and Livestock Australia's NLIS database helpdesk on 1800 654 743.

For more information on agistment guidelines refer to Primefact 297 *Agistment guidelines*.

For more information on BJD movement requirements contact your local Livestock Health and Pest Authority.

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Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (January 2009). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of New South Wales Department of Primary Industries or the user's independent adviser.

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