

OJD – The vaccine

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Samantha Allan, Senior Veterinary
Officer, Animal Biosecurity Tamworth

What is Gudair® ?

Gudair® vaccine is available without restriction to NSW sheep producers to help protect their sheep against infection with ovine Johne's disease (OJD). For more information about the vaccine visit the manufacturer's web site at the link below.

[Gudair® web page](#)

Can Gudair® vaccine cause OJD infection?

No. Gudair® is an inactivated (killed) vaccine – it cannot give OJD infection to an animal.

The vaccine is designed to stimulate a strong immune response in the animal. It is very important to administer the vaccine only as directed by the manufacturer.

People using the vaccine must take precautions to avoid injecting themselves with the vaccine.

[Gudair® safety information can be found here.](#)

How does Gudair® vaccine work?

Gudair® works by stimulating the immune system of an animal. One dose is all that is required to provide lifetime protection against OJD.

The vaccine is most effective when administered before contact with the bacterium that causes OJD. Ideally sheep should be vaccinated before they are 16 weeks old. Get advice from your veterinarian if you are considering vaccinating older sheep.

Does Gudair® stop animals becoming infected?

Like all vaccines, Gudair® does not prevent infection in every sheep vaccinated. However in a

flock situation, use of Gudair will significantly reduce the production losses and mortalities seen when the disease is uncontrolled. Vaccination has been shown to reduce mortalities due to OJD by 90%.

Vaccinated animals are much less likely to shed Johne's bacteria in the faeces if they do become infected. This limits the contamination of the environment, and the risk to other sheep.

When should I vaccinate?

Gudair® works best when given to animals before they are exposed to Johne's bacteria, so ideally vaccinate all your restocker lambs and kids by 16 weeks of age. Older animals can also be protected if you vaccinate them before exposure, e.g. two weeks before moving them onto an unknown or infected property.

Vaccination of adult sheep and goats that have already been exposed to infection may still be valuable. Talk to your veterinarian if you are considering vaccinating sheep and goats which will be retained in flocks that are suspected or known to be infected.

Note that in NSW the vaccine can be legally used on lambs and kids younger than 4 weeks of age,

Note also that no trials have been conducted on the safety or efficacy of using Gudair® in Australian goats or kids.

If Gudair® doesn't protect all of my sheep and goats why use it?

Vaccines are never 100% effective, and OJD is very resistant to control by traditional biosecurity measures. This is because it is difficult to diagnose in the early stages of infection, and the bacteria can survive in the environment for extended periods.

Gudair® vaccination remains one of the best ways of protecting a flock against the effects of infection with OJD in the majority of cases.

Can I vaccinate animals destined for live export?

Do not vaccinate sheep or goats with Gudair[®] vaccine if they are to be exported live. Sheep and goats exported from Australia are tested for Johne's disease by serology (blood testing), and vaccination will give a positive result for Johne's disease.

Is Gudair[®] dangerous if I inject myself?

The Gudair[®] label states: 'If accidentally injected a severe and persistent local reaction may occur. Obtain medical attention immediately if accidental self-administration occurs.'

[Gudair[®] user safety information](#)

Do I have to identify my vaccinated sheep and goats?

YES. You have to identify your vaccinated sheep *at the time of vaccination* with an ear tag which has your Property Identification Code (PIC) and a big 'V'. (V tag)

This ear tag must be an approved NLIS sheep tag (it will have the 'NLIS – Sheep' logo) and can be either a breeder or post breeder tag. The owner is responsible for ensuring that this tagging is done correctly.

Goats should also be identified *at the time of vaccination* with an ear tag which has your PIC and a big 'V'. The ear tag must be consistent with NLIS.

Even if goats are exempt from NLIS it is recommended that the V ear tag be applied unless there is a particular reason not to do so, e.g. they are show goats. If no ear tag is applied, you should keep a written record of the date of vaccination and identity details of all vaccinated goats (e.g. tattoo).

How do I tag sheep and goats that already have a tag when I vaccinate?

Where sheep or goats have already been NLIS tagged and are subsequently vaccinated, a second pink post breeder V tag should be used and the original tag left in place.

If the sheep are still on the property of birth and the owner wishes to do so, they may apply to their district veterinarian for a permit to remove

the original tag and replace it with a breeder V tag.

Can anyone vaccinate their sheep or goats?

Yes, anyone in NSW can vaccinate sheep or goats with Gudair[®] vaccine.

Do I have to keep any records of vaccination?

No, but the person who supplies the vaccine to you has to keep a written record of your name and address, your PIC, the date of supply and the number of doses. The supplier has to keep that record for five years and supply this information to Zoetis Animal Health Australia. Zoetis must make this information available to the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) as required.

In the case of goats that have not been tagged due to NLIS exemptions, it is recommended that you keep a written record of the goats you have vaccinated, (including permanent identification details) and when.

Can I vaccinate animals other than sheep or goats?

To use the vaccine in other species you will need to apply to your District veterinarian and complete an OJD risk management plan which details what you are planning to do and why. The plan and your vaccine application must be sent to the Director, Animal Biosecurity and Welfare at NSW DPI. If your application is approved you will be issued with an authority to use Gudair[®] in the specified animals.

Control over the use of Gudair[®] in other species exists because its use may interfere with testing for other important diseases such as tuberculosis.

Where can I buy Gudair[®] vaccine?

Vaccine is available from a range of stockists including rural distributors and private vets.

Remember that you do need an authority to use Gudair[®] on animals other than sheep and goats.

Where can I find more information about Gudair®?

More Information about Gudair® from industry sources may be found on the following pages:

- Zoetis.com.au
- [OJD Vaccination facts](#)

For updates go to

www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/factsheets

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