

## OJD Technical Panel

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The ovine Johne's disease (OJD) technical panel was formed to provide a source of sound, consistent, technical advice on issues relating to the management of OJD.

### Panel membership

The panel members are government veterinarians with experience and/or technical expertise in OJD management.

The panel is appointed by the NSW Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) and always includes:

- the NSW OJD program coordinator, and
- two district veterinarians (DV), one with experience in the OJD high prevalence area.

### Role of the panel

The panel may give advice or make a recommendation on any technical matter pertaining to OJD, including:

- resolution of suspicion
- resolution of infection
- certification of approved vaccinates
- certification of low-risk sheep
- the sheep JD Market Assurance Program
- interpretation of the '*National OJD Guidelines*'
- interpretation of NSW policy and procedures.

The primary role of the panel is to advise the CVO but the panel may also provide technical advice directly to field staff and private practitioners. The panel will notify the CVO of any such advice.

### Resolution of suspected or known infection

Nationally accepted standards and practices for the management of OJD are documented in the national '[Guidelines for the Implementation of Assurance-based OJD Management in Sheep](#)'.

Under these guidelines properties that are suspected or known to be infected with OJD may seek resolution by:

- resolving the suspicion to the satisfaction of the CVO (suspect properties only)
- a program of vaccination and testing
- completing a CVO approved destocking/decontamination program.

Producers opting for a program of vaccination and testing may choose one of two options:

- the whole flock consists of Approved Vaccinates and has undertaken a PFC 350 Test with negative results, at a minimum of 2 years after the last detected infected animal has been removed;

or

- the whole flock is a Second Generation Approved Vaccinate Flock which has undertaken a PFC 350 Test with negative results.

The OJD technical panel provides a mechanism by which these activities can be planned, undertaken and formally endorsed by the CVO in accordance with the national guidelines.

Submissions to the panel for resolution of known or suspected infection must include an OJD risk management plan detailing the proposed strategies.

The plan needs to include:

- a brief history, including the date of the last known dangerous contact
- a risk assessment including items such as neighbour risk, fencing security, water movement through the property
- any vaccination strategies
- any testing strategies
- any destocking strategies
- any decontamination strategies, e.g. grazing by low risk animals or cropping rotations
- other risk management strategies

Destocking programs need to be conducted over a 15 month period including two summers. The land



may usually be grazed during the 15 month destocking period with:

- cattle
- terminal lambs that are destocked before 12 months of age
- 'low risk' adult sheep that are destocked within 12 months of any potential exposure to OJD.

### **Benefits of completing a program to resolve suspected or known infection**

Producers who successfully complete a program and have it endorsed by the CVO:

- receive formal recognition that their flock/property is no longer regarded as suspected or known to be infected with OJD,
- regain their Assurance Based Credit trading points in category A of the national Sheep Health Statement, and
- are eligible to apply for entry to the sheep JD Market Assurance Program.

For further information contact your District Veterinarian at the local office of your Livestock Health and Pest Authority.

For more information on OJD go to:

- [www.ojdinfo.nsw.gov.au](http://www.ojdinfo.nsw.gov.au)
- [www.ojd.com.au](http://www.ojd.com.au).

### **Requesting advice from the OJD Technical Panel**

All requests for advice from private practitioners or NSW DPI/LHPA field staff must be submitted in writing and addressed to the NSW OJD program coordinator at [biosecurity@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:biosecurity@dpi.nsw.gov.au) or phone 02 6391 3351 for information on written requests.

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