



NSW JD MAP Update 4

Australian Johne's Disease Market Assurance Program

Information for MAP Veterinarians

April 2011

External audits

Letters have been sent to 190 NSW MAP producers advising that they are due an external audit this year which must be completed by an auditor of their choice within 6 months.

As the MAP veterinarian, you may be able to help your client prepare for the audit by ensuring they have copies of all relevant documents, including laboratory reports and annual veterinary reviews.

If any problems are detected during the audit, the auditor issues a corrective action request (CAR). The herd/flock manager is responsible for correcting problems in a timely manner, especially major and critical defects which jeopardise their MAP status. The auditor confirms whether these problems have been resolved in time and notifies the MAP Administrator.

The auditor should send you a copy of any major or critical CARs. You may be able to help resolve defects related to introductions, grazing on non-assessed land and the like. Otherwise, you may need to reassess the herd/flock status and notify a change of status accordingly.

Unresolved major and critical defects, or failure to complete an audit in time, will result in the herd/flock status being downgraded.

Guidelines for auditors are published on the DPI website (see *Contacts*).

Late notifications and lapsed status

The MAP veterinarian is responsible for sending a written notification of maintenance or change of status to the MAP Administrator after each annual veterinary review. The notification must be received preferably before but certainly no later than 2 months after the expiry date of the current status certificate.

As a service, we routinely send a renewal notice to the herd/flock manager and the MAP veterinarian several weeks before the current certificate expiry

date. If no notification is received, a final reminder is sent during the month after the expiry date.

The letters to veterinarians include a notification form largely filled in from our database to make it easier for you to complete the form, or to apply for an extension if warranted.

Notwithstanding these services, late notifications remain a chronic problem, undermining the credibility of the MAP veterinarian and the MAPs generally and increasing our administration costs.

Please note that, if a notification is not received by 2 months after the certificate expiry date, the status of a herd or flock will be lapsed one level (ie MN3 to MN2, MN2 to MN1, MN1 to NA). A new MAP certificate with this status will be sent for your signature and advice to your client.

Status may be reinstated, depending on the circumstances, but in some cases a sample test rather than maintenance test is required, increasing your client's costs.

If the next year's notification is also not received in time, the herd/flock status lapses to NA as it presents an unknown JD risk given that there has been no demonstrated review or test for more than two years.

These rules are designed to recognise the increased risk of JD if testing, annual veterinary review and/or notification are late and to provide an incentive for these activities to be completed on time.

Introductions

Brought-in livestock present one of the greatest risks of introducing JD into a MAP herd or flock. There are strict requirements for introductions to flocks and herds which are detailed in each MAP manual. You cannot simply introduce any animals that have tested negative. In particular:

- the approved veterinarian must approve all introductions *before* they occur
- only 5% of sheep of a lower MAP status may be introduced each year and the sheep must have the same or higher number of ABC credits
- only 5% of beef cattle one MAP status lower may be introduced each year

- only 5% of dairy cattle one dairy score lower may be introduced each year
- only 10% of alpaca one MAP status lower may be introduced each year
- any pre-and post-entry testing requirements must be met
- all introduced livestock must be permanently identified.

Ensure that you read and understand the rules for the relevant MAP before approving any introductions. The status of the herd or flock may be jeopardised if these protocols are not followed, and failure to comply with the rules for introduced animals is potentially a critical defect at audit.

MN status and zone equivalence

As a rule, animals with a lower JD status may not move to another herd/flock, zone or state with a higher status. The following table may help you to determine equivalence between JD zones and MAP status and hence whether animals are eligible for introduction from a particular zone or state to a MAP herd/flock, or for movement from a MAP herd/flock to another zone or state.

Beef cattle

BJD zone	State / Territory	Status
Free	WA	MN3
		MN2
Protected	QLD, NT, ACT, SA pastoral, NSW most	MN1
Control	VIC, SA southern, NSW part	NA
Residual	TAS	NA

Dairy cattle

BJD zone	State / Territory	Score	Status
Free	WA	10	MN3
		9	MN2
		8	MN1
Protected	QLD, NT, SA northern	7-8	MN1
Control	NSW, ACT, VIC, SA southern	0	NA
Residual	TAS	0	NA

Sheep

OJD zone	State / Territory	Points	Status
Low prevalence	QLD, NT, SA most NSW northern and western	4	MN3
		3	MN2
Medium prevalence	WA, TAS most, VIC western, NSW part, SA Kangaroo Is	2	MN1
High prevalence	NSW central & southern, ACT, VIC most, TAS Flinders Is	0	NA

Goats are susceptible to both bovine and ovine strains of JD and are subject to more complex risk and assurance rating. All goats in Australia are deemed to be NA unless MN, eligible for additional assurance rating points, or SU or IN.

Alpaca are deemed to be NA unless MN, SU or IN.

Details of dairy cattle scores, sheep ABC points and goat assurance ratings are provided in national health declaration forms available from

www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/farm-biosecurity/toolkit.cfm > *Declarations and statements*

Maps of the current BJD and OJD zones are available at: www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au > *Programs and Projects > Johne's Disease*

> *Bovine Johne's Disease in Australia > BJD zoning in Australia*, or

> *Ovine Johne's Disease in Australia > OJD prevalence areas in Australia*.

Note that zone definitions and boundaries are under review and likely to change.

Notification of break-downs

Occasionally, unfortunately, a MAP herd of flock breaks down when Johne's disease is definitively diagnosed in it. This immediately triggers a number of obligations on the MAP veterinarian.

1. Helping your **client** to understand and cope with this unfortunate outcome. For beef herds, assistance is available under the financial and non-financial assistance program – contact your District Veterinarian (DV) at the Livestock Health and Pest Authority (LHPA).
2. **Notifying an inspector** which is best done by contacting the DV. Under the *Stock Diseases Act 1923*, JD must be notified within 48 hours of first being suspected. Large penalties can apply for failure to notify in a timely manner.
3. **Notifying the MAP Administrator** as soon as possible. The MN status is retained on the state and national databases until we are formally notified of a change of status.

Alert on the spread of OJD to previously uninfected flocks

Revised ovine Johne's disease prevalence areas became effective on 1 January 2011 in Western Australia, Victoria and some regions of NSW.

The changes are the consequence of an increasing prevalence of OJD over the past two years in some regions, which has pushed these areas above their allocated prevalence area cut-off under the OJD Management Plan 2007–2012.

Sheep veterinarians should remind producers to review their OJD risk management strategies as OJD reduces farm profitability. Once the disease is established in an enterprise, disease management to reduce the impact on enterprise viability becomes an ongoing cost of production.

Two key tools are available to minimise the risk or impact of infection with OJD:

- The national Sheep Health Statement is a biosecurity tool that allows producers to assess the risk posed by OJD, lice, footrot and ovine brucellosis in introduced sheep before they are purchased
- Vaccination with Gudair® vaccine minimises the risk that sheep will be clinically affected by OJD and possibly die and reduces the rate of excretion of the infective agent in infected animals.

For more information on OJD go to:

- www.ojd.com.au
 - www.ojdinfo.nsw.gov.au, or
 - contact Rob Barwell (see *Contacts* below)
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BJD zoning review

BJD zones throughout Australia are currently under review. The anticipated changes will impact on NSW and are expected to be introduced by 2012.

Approval for SheepMAP serological testing

Please remember that SheepMAP veterinarians must obtain the prior approval of the Chief Veterinary Officer if they wish to use serological tests for the MAP, including for introduced sheep.

Laboratory reports and status certificates

The MAP veterinarian is responsible for assessing risk and interpreting test results in order to determine the MAP status of a herd or flock, and for notifying maintenance or change of status (including suspect or infected status) in a timely manner. Status certificates, based on the information provided by the MAP veterinarian, are then generated and forwarded for your signature and the status is uploaded to the Animal Health Australia website.

Copies of laboratory reports are routinely sent by EMAIL to DVs so they can maintain an overview of JD in their district for surveillance purposes, and to specified DPI staff to maintain a history of testing in our database and to assess eligibility for and process subsidy payments.

The fact that we have a copy of the laboratory report or have generated a status certificate does not mitigate your professional responsibility to fully assess the JD risk and status of your client's herd or flock and to notify us of all relevant information.

Show health declaration forms

The current show health declaration forms are available at: www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/farm-biosecurity/toolkit.cfm > *Declarations and statements*

Printing MAP certificates

You and your clients can now print a current status certificate from the AHA website. Go to www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/ > *Programs and Projects > Johne's Disease > Market Assurance Programs (MAPs) > Search for MAP assessed herds or flocks near you*, then type in the producer's surname and/or other relevant information, select NSW, click on *Search*, find the correct herd or flock under Search results at the bottom of the screen (may need to scroll down), click on *More info*, and print the certificate that appears on the screen. There is no need for the approved veterinarian to sign the certificate as it is based on official data provided by the veterinarian.

This feature means that anyone can obtain contact details and a copy of the current status certificate any time – no need to wait for a new certificate to be sent or ask for a replacement. Note that, in the normal course of events, it takes 3-4 weeks for a veterinarian's notification form to be received,

reviewed, entered onto the State database and uploaded (weekly) to the national AHA database.

MAP stats

There are currently 267 cattle, 213 sheep, 77 alpaca and 26 goat (total 583) NSW herds and flocks in MAPs. Overall participation is down 15% in the past year. NSW has 43% of the national MAP herds and flocks. There are 157 active MAP veterinarians in NSW.

Contacts and further information

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Copies of previous NSW JD MAP Updates, DPI's MAP administration procedures, guidelines for auditors and privacy notices are available on the web at

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/livestock/health/specific/veterinarians> or
www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/programs/jd/maps.cfm

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