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## **OVINE JOHNE'S DISEASE (OJD)**

### **TERMINOLOGY**

### **INFORMATION**

This circular replaces circular AI 2004/020.

The following terminology is consistent with the National Guidelines for the Implementation of Assurance-based OJD Management in Sheep, first edition, July 1, 2004.

#### **Abattoir 700 inspection**

Submission of at least 700 representative sheep over 2 years of age to an abattoir where abattoir inspection for OJD is being undertaken, with inspection of at least 500 of the sheep.

#### **Abattoir 200 inspection**

Submission of at least 200 representative sheep over 2 years of age to an abattoir where abattoir inspection for OJD is being undertaken, with inspection of at least 150 of the sheep.

#### **ABC score**

The number of credit points allocated to a consignment of sheep under the ABC Scheme.

#### **Approved laboratory**

A veterinary laboratory approved by the CVO to carry out diagnostic tests for OJD.

#### **Approved test**

A test recommended by the CVO and approved by the CDAI to assist in the diagnosis of OJD.

#### **Approved vaccinate**

A sheep that has been vaccinated with Gudair® Vaccine by 16 weeks of age, or a sheep that has been vaccinated after 16 weeks of age which, in the opinion of an approved veterinarian, has been vaccinated before being exposed to *Mycobacterium paratuberculosis*.

#### **Approved vaccinate flock**

A flock comprised entirely of approved vaccinates.

#### **Approved veterinarian**

A veterinarian accredited under the APAV program, and/or approved by the CVO, to carry out OJD testing and to manage OJD programs in flocks/properties.

#### **Assurance Based Credit Scheme (ABC Scheme)**

The nationally agreed scheme of Assurance Based Credit for measuring the risk of OJD infection at the flock or group level. Using a uniform scoring system, assurance credit points are allocated by the flock owner based on a combination of flock or group characteristics, including location risk (area prevalence), testing results and vaccination.

## **Barrier**

A physical separation which should be sufficient to prevent contact of sheep with:

- a) other sheep that are infected, or suspected of being infected, with OJD,
- b) faecal material from sheep that are infected, or suspected of being infected, with OJD.

Examples of barriers are:

- a fenced paddock grazed by a non-susceptible species,
- a road, laneway or tree-plot that is fenced on both sides and is not used by susceptible stock,
- a double fence-line in an appropriate location,
- a solid partition or a 2 metre pen or walkway within a shed.

## **Certified low-risk sheep**

Sheep which are sourced from an infected flock and which are certified in writing as low-risk by a SheepMAP approved veterinarian on the basis of:

- risk assessment, and
- an approved Property Disease Management Program that includes profiling and strategic culling, being implemented in the flock. Other strategies such as vaccination of sheep which are unlikely to have been heavily exposed, may also be appropriate.

## **Chief Veterinary Officer**

The person appointed as CVO pursuant to the Exotic Diseases of Animals Act 1991, or in his/her absence, a deputy CVO appointed pursuant to that Act.

## **Eligible for Abattoir 700 status**

700 representative sheep over 2 years of age have been submitted to an abattoir in the past 24 months with at least 500 sheep, in 1 or more lots, being examined and found negative for OJD.

## **Eligible for Abattoir 200 status**

200 representative sheep over 2 years of age have been submitted to an abattoir in the past 12 months with at least 150 sheep, in 1 or more lots, being examined and found negative for OJD.

## **Flock**

A group of sheep which is kept as a discrete unit and/or which have shared the same land or facilities within the last 12 months.

## **Infected sheep**

An infected sheep is a sheep in which infection with Johne's disease has been confirmed by an approved test.

In an infected flock, a sheep with clinical signs or gross pathological changes consistent with Johne's disease may be considered to be infected.

## **Infected flock**

A flock is regarded as infected with Johne's disease when:

- a) one or more infected animals have been found and
- b) there is evidence of, or likely potential for, transmission of infection to other sheep.

A flock is no longer regarded as infected when:

- a) 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 sheep has been destocked, or
- b) the whole flock is a second generation approved vaccinate flock that has undertaken a PFC 350 test, with negative results, or
- c) a destocking/decontamination program that has been approved by the CVO, has been completed.

**Mob**

A subgroup of sheep which is run as a unit and is of a like age, or sex, or both. Contact between different mobs within a flock is usually by shared rams, shared facilities, or paddock rotation.

**Neighbouring land**

Neighbouring land is any land that:

- a) adjoins, has a common boundary to - or in some circumstances is separated by a road or a watercourse which is not a permanent barrier from - other land, or
- b) is close to, and which is at risk of contamination with soil or faecal material from, other land that is infected or suspected of being infected with OJD.

**Ovine Johne's disease**

For the purpose of this document, unless otherwise indicated, ovine Johne's disease (OJD) refers to Johne's disease in sheep caused by infection with the sheep (S) strain of the organism *Mycobacterium avium* subs. *paratuberculosis* (*Mycobacterium paratuberculosis*).

**PFC 350 test**

A test of 350 representative sheep over 2 years of age (or all sheep over 2 years of age in small flocks) by Pooled Faecal Culture in pools of up to 50 sheep.

**Prevalence area**

A defined geographic area with allocated assurance credit points for the purpose of the ABC Scheme, and classified as either a High Prevalence Area, a Medium Prevalence Area, a Low Prevalence Area or a Very Low Prevalence Area, as determined by national Animal Health Committee.

**Property disease management program**

A program to manage OJD in an infected or suspected flock, with the purpose of reducing within-flock prevalence and minimising the risk of spread to other flocks.

**Risk assessment**

Assessment of the risk of a sheep, flock or property being or becoming infected with OJD, or transmitting OJD infection to another sheep, flock or property.

**Risk management plan**

A written plan to manage the risk of OJD entering into or spreading within or from a flock/property.

**Sample test**

A test of a sample of a flock, in accordance with the Sheep Market Assurance Program (SheepMAP) guidelines, which is undertaken within the flock's current SheepMAP program.

**Second generation approved vaccinate flock**

A flock comprising entirely approved vaccinates that were born into an approved vaccinate flock.

**Suspected sheep**

A sheep may be suspected of being infected with OJD if it has one or more of the following:

- a) clinical signs consistent with OJD,
- b) gross post mortem lesions consistent with OJD,
- c) reacted to a test for OJD, but not been subject to a follow-up definitive test,
- d) histopathological changes suggestive of OJD, but no acid-fast organism has been demonstrated,
- e) been in direct contact with an OJD infected animal/flock,
- f) been in direct contact with OJD infected land or facilities,
- g) originated from an OJD infected or suspected flock.

### **Suspected flock**

A suspected flock is one that is suspected of being infected. Grounds to suspect infection include:

- a) there are sheep in the flock over 12 months of age that have symptoms suggestive of OJD such as scouring, ill-thrift and deaths, and no other cause has been identified,
- b) sheep apparently from the flock are found to be OJD infected by abattoir surveillance within 12 months of leaving the flock,
- c) the flock neighbours an infected flock,
- d) the flock contains sheep from another flock that:
  - is known or suspected to be infected,
  - is located in a high prevalence area,
  - hasn't accumulated any assurance-based credit (ABC) points,
- e) sheep apparently from the flock are found to be OJD infected on other land within 12 months of leaving the flock,
- f) sheep from the flock have been grazing on land or using a facility that has previously been used by infected sheep and is therefore likely to be contaminated,
- g) a veterinarian or a laboratory has reported that the flock is likely to be infected.

### **'T' tag**

An eartag bearing a 'T' symbol on one side and the PIC of the property of origin on the other. It is recommended that 'T' tags are fluoro-pink in colour.

### **Terminal crossbred lamb**

A sheep that is the progeny of a mating between sheep that are not of like breed, is of no more than 50% merino extraction, is a desexed male or a female not destined for breeding, and has not cut its permanent teeth.

### **Tested low level infected flock**

An infected flock that has a history supporting low prevalence, a risk management plan in place that has been approved by a District Veterinarian, and a flock profile demonstrating a detection rate of  $\leq 1$  of 10 pools by Pooled Faecal Culture within the previous 2 years.

### **'V' tag**

An eartag bearing a 'V' symbol on one side and, on the other side, the PIC of the property on which a sheep that is vaccinated with Gudair® normally resides. 'V' tags are required to be consistent with the NLIS-Sheep.

### **Abbreviations**

APAV	Accreditation Program for Australian Veterinarians
CDAI	Chief, Division of Animal Industries
CVO	Chief Veterinary Officer
NLIS-Sheep	National Livestock Identification System for Sheep
OJD	Ovine Johne's Disease
PFC	Pooled Faecal Culture
PIC	Property Identification Code
SheepMAP	Australian Johne's Disease Market Assurance Program for Sheep

**APPROVED**

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