

NSW JD MAP Update

Australian Johne's Disease Market Assurance Program (MAP)

Information for Approved Veterinarians

March 2008

This is the third of an occasional newsletter from the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) to help keep approved MAP veterinarians abreast of recent developments and current issues.

[specific/cattle/bjd/new-bjd-approach](#) or by contacting Sally.

BJD management post 31 March 2008

On 31 March 2008 the way bovine Johne's disease (BJD) is managed in NSW is changing, to introduce risk-based trading. This is in keeping with the less regulated approach for managing BJD in Australia, which has been agreed nationally by cattle industries, governments and stakeholders.

From 31 March 2008 the major changes will be:

- All NSW dairy holdings must supply a completed Dairy BJD Assurance Score Declaration Form when they move cattle, for example for sale or agistment (exemptions for male bobby calves and steers and for cattle being sold to abattoirs, slaughter-only sales and approved feedlots).
- Dairy holdings infected or suspected of being infected with BJD will be released from quarantine and will be free to trade to any other holding in their BJD zone. However, infected beef holdings will remain in quarantine.
- At saleyards, the Dairy BJD Assurance Score must be displayed when cattle from dairy holdings are sold and the auctioneer must announce the Dairy BJD Assurance Score prior to sale.

Zoning and quarantines will remain in place for now for beef herds.

These changes may have some effect on the CattleMAP:

- Dairy herds (regardless of the BJD zone they are in) are considered to have a 'control zone' status. This means that dairy herds entering the CattleMAP for the first time after 31 March 2008 will be MN1, even if they are in the protected zone. Dairy herds that are already in the CattleMAP retain their higher zone-related status.
- MAP herds will only be able to introduce dairy cattle with a dairy score of equivalent or higher status, ie dairy score 8 for MN1, 9 for MN2 and 10 for MN3.

More information is available at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/livestock/health/

OJD management post 31 March 2008

A new national ovine Johne's disease (OJD) management plan (OJDMP) will commence on Monday 31 March 2008 following the end of the current 2004-2007 plan.

The OJDMP is the culmination of extended consultations between WoolProducers Australia, Sheepmeat Council of Australia and peak state organisations which seeks to continue to encourage producers to undertake risk assessments prior to the purchase of stock, in addition to controlling OJD through vaccination and on-farm management practices. The OJDMP is coordinated by Animal Health Australia on behalf of stakeholders.

Producers buying or selling restocker sheep from 31 March 2008 should be aware that the prevalence areas and their associated ABC points have changed and that a new national Sheep Health Statement (SHS) will replace the current NSW health statements. Producers completing a SHS should check the state prevalence map to see which prevalence area they are in and remember the new ABC score for their area. The changes to trade and possible revised interstate movement requirements may make SheepMAP participation more valuable for some clients.

Further information about the management of OJD under this new plan is available at the AHA or DPI websites www.ojd.com.au and www.ojdinfo.nsw.gov.au or by contacting Therese.

GoatMAP

Pooled faecal culture (PFC)

The PFC for Johne's disease in goats has been approved by the national Animal Health Committee for the purposes of herd testing for the GoatMAP and for disease investigation and control.

The testing of up to 18 pools (each from 25 goats) is the standard for the GoatMAP to achieve the same herd sensitivity as currently required for serological testing in the GoatMAP



(that is 95% probability of detecting a true prevalence of 2%).

PFC testing will be undertaken at Orange Regional Veterinary Laboratory at a cost of \$139.20 (inc. GST) per pool. This is the same price as the PFC BACTEC test for sheep, as the laboratory process is the same for both species. Each pool can be from a maximum of 25 goats, with all animals 12 months of age and over to be tested. This compares with the price for JD serology testing of \$8.80 per animal, meaning that for a pool of 16 to 25 animals, the PFC works out cheaper.

Approval of the PFC in goats may allow use of Gudair® vaccination in the GoatMAP in future, but this has not yet been approved.

The GoatMAP manual is currently being revised, with the new version due out in late 2008. Please contact Bronwyn for further information.

General

Audits

In July 2007, Animal Health Australia (AHA) wrote to 346 MAP producers in NSW (a third of the total) advising that they needed to arrange an external audit within 6 months. Details of this program were provided in the last NSW JD MAP Update.

To date, only 54 had completed an audit. AHA has now sent a final reminder letter.

Producers who do not arrange a timely audit risk their herd/flock losing status. This will have a significant impact not only on them but on the whole program.

If contacted by your client about this, please encourage them to participate and help them to get their records in order, even though the audit is an additional cost (note that beef cattle and alpaca herds are eligible for a subsidy). If they decide that it is not worthwhile staying in the MAP, please let Julie know so she can update our records and we can avoid further correspondence.

Unfenced public roads

Please alert your clients to the potential risk to their MAP status posed by an unfenced declared, public or 'green' road running through their property. A producer may be unable to prevent a neighbour obtaining a walking stock permit to move 'risky' sheep or cattle through a MAP flock or herd. Such a movement may result in a loss of status. All existing clients and those setting up new MAP flocks should be aware of this potential risk.

Researchers from the University of Sydney* found higher levels of OJD infection on farms

that move sheep along roads shared with neighbours. [*Dhand Et al 2007, Navneet K. Dhand, Jeff Epplestonb, Richard J. Whittington and Jenny-Ann L.M.L. Toribio, Risk factors for ovine Johnes's disease in infected sheep flocks in Australia, *Preventive Veterinary Medicine* 82 (2007), pp. 51-71]

Administration

Variation of anniversary date

The anniversary date is normally the date that a herd or flock was first assigned a MAP status and is the expiry date for status certificates each year.

Many anniversaries fall due around Christmas and the New Year when it might not be the best time, with holidays and summer weather, to be mustering and testing stock, but producers need a current status certificate to register for the Royal Easter Show and other shows at that time.

Some people try to apply for an extension until just after the show, but extensions are only approved in specific circumstances and not for expediency.

An option that you might like to consider is applying for a permanent variation in anniversary (certificate expiry) date. The MAP Administrator can approve this for up to 3 months either way. For example, if the current anniversary date is December, your client may wish to bring this forward to October so that annual reviews and tests can be done well before Christmas. If the current anniversary is February, this could be put back to May so that it falls after the show.

Please contact Julie to discuss options and to apply for a variation of anniversary date if you wish. An application is only considered if the status of the herd or flock is current, so please plan ahead and don't leave it until the status has already expired.

Notification forms

We are now sending reminders of expiring status with the notification form printed on the back of the letter and with contact details and other information from our database already filled in. We hope you find this useful as it should save you time completing the paperwork and allows you to check and correct the details that we have on our database.

Correspondence

DPI sends the following routine correspondence:

- Routine reminders to MAP producers and veterinarians 1-2 months before the certificate expiry date.
- New status certificates to veterinarians on receipt of a valid status notification.
- Final reminders to producers and veterinarians 1 month after the expiry date.

- Lapsed status certificates to veterinarians if a valid status notification is not received within a month of the final reminder.

NSW MAP Statistics

There are currently 459 cattle, 311 sheep, 116 alpaca and 33 goat (total 919) NSW herds and flocks in MAPs. Overall participation is down 13% in the past year, especially in the CattleMAP. There are 142 approved veterinarians actively participating in MAPs in NSW, up slightly since last year.

Contacts and further information

Julie Wright is our **MAP administrator** and your first point of contact for all MAP enquiries. All status notifications should be sent to Julie.

Phone: (03) 5881 9911

Fax: (03) 5881 3719

Email: stockmap@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Postal: PO Box 736, Deniliquin NSW 2710

Robyn Dietrich can assist if Julie is unavailable, phone 02 6662 2288.

Technical advice is available from DPI veterinarians:

Sally Spence for CattleMAP, phone: 02 6391 3630

Therese Wright for SheepMAP, phone 02 6391 3351

Bronwyn Hendry for GoatMAP and AlpacaMAP as well as APAV accreditation and MAP veterinarian approval, phone 02 6391 3101.

Further information, including copies of previous NSW JD MAP Updates, DPI's MAP administration procedures and privacy notices, is available on the web at

www.agric.nsw.gov.au/reader/jdmaps or

www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/programs/jd/maps.cfm or by contacting Julie.

Edited by Ian Bell, Manager Biosecurity and Traceability Systems, NSW DPI, Orange

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Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (March 2008). 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 NSW Department of Primary Industries or the user's independent adviser.

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