

NSW JD MAP Update

Australian Johne's Disease Market Assurance Program (MAP)

Information for Approved Veterinarians

August 2007

This is the second 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.

Audits

The MAPs, like all quality assurance programs, are subject to independent audit. Auditing enhances the integrity and credibility of the MAPs. Audits also help producers and their vets to identify improvements that they can make to the management of their herd or flock and their records. The whole process is designed to strengthen the MAPs.

There is national agreement between government and industry bodies that each producer with a MAP herd or flock should be externally audited once every three years. This is in addition to the annual review by the approved veterinarian.

Animal Health Australia (AHA) has recently written to 346 NSW producers with herds or flocks in the cattle, sheep, goat or alpaca MAP and advised them that an audit is due. Each producer must contact a quality auditor of their choice (AHA can provide a list of auditors who have attended a MAP information session, but they may use the services of any recognised QA auditor) and arrange for an audit to be completed within 6 months.

Audit outcomes and corrective action

The external auditor uses the review checklist included in each MAP manual. The outcome of the audit will be that the herd/flock conforms with all MAP requirements, or that there are non-conformities or defects which are graded as minor, major or critical. The auditor issues a corrective action request (CAR) for each non-conformity and sends a copy of their report to the audited producer, the approved veterinarian and the MAP administrator.

The producer and veterinarian are jointly responsible for the timely correction of any defects. The veterinarian should check and confirm that major and critical defects have been corrected within the timeframe identified by the auditor or otherwise within two months, and minor defects have been satisfactorily resolved by the time of the next annual review. This information should be included in the next status notification to the MAP administrator. If defects have not been corrected, then the veterinarian

should review the herd/flock status and owner agreement accordingly.

The status of a herd/flock with a critical defect is reviewed by the CVO, taking into consideration:

- national guidelines and criteria for rating defects;
- the impact of the defect on the JD risk of the herd/flock;
- whether the defect has been caused by a deliberate act or omission of the herd/flock owner or the approved veterinarian.

The herd/flock owner/manager and approved veterinarian are advised of the outcome of the CVO's review and given the opportunity to respond within 28 days. If no response is received in time or the response is not satisfactory, the herd/flock status is dropped to a level determined by the CVO.

Audits are mandatory. If a producer doesn't arrange an audit in time, the MAP status of their herd/flock will lapse to NA. Extensions to the time available for an audit to be completed will only be considered by the CVO in the most extenuating circumstances.

Costs

The cost of the audit is met by the producer, however some rebates are available from industry peak bodies. Further details and a claim form are provided by AHA to producers.

A MAP audit is only required once every 3 years, and audits for different MAP herds and flocks on the one property or for programs such as CattleCare and FlockCare can be combined.

We respect that some producers might choose at this stage to withdraw from the MAP after weighing up the costs and benefits to them. If so, please let the MAP administrator know so we can avoid inconveniencing you and your client with reminder letters.

Annual veterinary reviews

Each herd and flock that is audited must still be reviewed each year by the approved veterinarian before the expiry date of the current status certificate, using the review checklist from the MAP manual. The annual review also provides an opportunity for you to help your clients get their records in order for an audit.

To avoid confusion, please refer to your annual check-up as an 'annual review' rather than an



'audit'. We've modified the standard from of notification accordingly and a new version is enclosed.

Please see the AHA website or contact Julie, Robyn or Bronwyn for more information about the external audit process.

CattleMAP issues

Warning about false positive ELISA reactors

The Johne's ELISA has low sensitivity and, like all tests, a less than perfect specificity - **false positive** results do occur! In fact we expect up to 1% of BJD ELISA tests to be false positive reactions.

Please warn your clients that, when their herd is tested, any positive ELISA result needs to be resolved which can take up to 3 months (and even 5 months in extreme cases) using culture. This can be distressing for your client if the test occurred immediately before a planned sale or show. It is important to discuss the possibility of false positives with your client and plan to test herds when there is enough time to resolve the true status of any reactors. Please contact the MAP Administrator if you need to bring forward the testing time or possibly vary the expiry date for the herd.

Campbell Trotter, the BJD counsellor (0411 249125), is available to talk with beef clients who have tested positive on ELISA to explain options.

Dairy herd test subsidies - Update

Many non-assessed dairy herds are taking advantage of the \$550 testing subsidy provided by Cattle Council of Australia. Some herds are using the subsidy to partly fund their herd sample test for entering the CattleMAP. This funding was provided on a one-off basis with sufficient funds provided to test 163 dairy herds by the end of 2007. So far approximately 60 dairy herds have been tested with 7 ELISA positive animals detected in different herds. The follow-up testing of these ELISA reactors has not been completed as yet so it is not known if the tests have identified any infected herds.

Please contact Sally for more information.

SheepMAP issues

Annual reviews and thin sheep

In response to concerns from approved veterinarians about the costs involved in the post mortem and testing of 3 thin sheep for the annual SheepMAP veterinary review, DPI has asked AHA to review this requirement to try and come up with options that are still technically

sound but more cost effective. In the meantime, the current rules about testing or certifying thin sheep still apply.

If you'd like to contribute ideas to the review or want further information, please contact Bronwyn.

NSW MAP Statistics

There are currently 512 cattle, 325 sheep, 115 alpaca and 34 goat (total 986) NSW herds and flocks in MAPs. 139 approved veterinarians are actively participating in MAPs in NSW.

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, phone 66622288, can assist if Julie is unavailable.

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, MAP approval and audits, phone 02 6391 3101.

Further information and privacy notices are available on the web at <http://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/programs/jd/maps.cfm> or www.agric.nsw.gov.au/reader/jdmaps or by contacting the MAP administrator.

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 (August 2007). 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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