



BEEF ONLY

WHERE BIOSECURITY IS BUYER SECURITY



The *Beef Only* classification helps assure cattle buyers of the very low risk of bovine Johne's disease (BJD) in beef herds that have had little or no contact with dairy cattle.

WHY HAVE A BEEF ONLY CLASSIFICATION?

BJD mainly occurs in dairy cattle in southern Australia. The *Beef Only* classification recognises that there are relatively few pure beef herds known to be infected with BJD. However, in general, testing and other investigations have found that these types of herds have a very low risk of being infected with the disease.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR TRADING?

The beef cattle industry and state animal health authorities have agreed that cattle from herds that qualify as *Beef Only* are now able to be traded into the BJD Beef Protected Areas of New South Wales and South Australia, and the Protected Zones of Queensland, South Australia and the Northern Territory without the herd of origin having to be tested.

Herds that qualify as *Beef Only* not only have a history of trading with low risk sectors of the cattle industry, but continue on a daily basis to manage their disease risk. So, herds that meet the *Beef Only* standard and declare it on the National Cattle Health Statement can move around south-eastern Australia without having to be tested.

HOW DO CATTLE QUALIFY TO BE SOLD AS BEEF ONLY?

Cattle for sale qualify as *Beef Only* if the owner or manager declares on the National Cattle Health Statement that the cattle comply with all of the following criteria:

1. The cattle do not include animals that have been part of a herd classified as Infected (IN), Suspect (SU) or Restricted (RD), according to the National Johne's Disease Standard Definitions, Rules & Guidelines for Cattle.
2. The cattle are from a beef herd that has not grazed with dairy cattle, or first generation dairy-cross cattle, at any time during the previous five (5) years, unless those dairy cattle were from a herd enrolled in the Australian Johne's Disease Market Assurance Program for Cattle (CattleMAP).
3. The cattle are from a beef herd that has not, at any time in the past, grazed on land that had been grazed by adult dairy cattle (two years old or older) during the 12 months before the arrival of the beef herd, unless those dairy cattle were part of a CattleMAP herd.
4. If introduced into the herd or onto the property(s), the cattle are from herds that are of the same *Beef Only* or higher status for BJD (BCTAS-Beef Cattle Trade Assurance Scheme, MN1, MN2, MN3), and came with a Cattle Health Statement or BJD vendor declaration.
5. The cattle are identified under the National Livestock Identification Scheme (NLIS).

BEEF ONLY CATTLE AT SALES

At the sale itself:

- *Beef Only* cattle may be identified by pen labels (sale cards) and penned separately from other sale cattle.
- *Beef Only* cattle are to be accompanied by both a National Vendor Declaration (NVD) and the National Cattle Health Statement.
- The NLIS identification of all *Beef Only* cattle is scanned and transactions entered on the database.
- Purchasers are asked to provide their property identification code (PIC) to the selling agent so their details can be added to the NLIS database.

WANTING TO SELL BEEF ONLY CATTLE?

If your herd qualifies as *Beef Only* and you want to sell cattle as *Beef Only*, notify your agent and send the cattle to sale with a completed National Cattle Health Statement.

If you want further advice on whether your herd qualifies as *Beef Only*, contact your local district veterinary officer, animal health officer or cattle adviser.

LOOKING TO BUY BEEF ONLY CATTLE?

If your herd is in south-eastern Australia and is not infected with BJD, you will want to protect your BJD status. Cattle presented for sale and declared as *Beef Only* represent a low risk for BJD. Livestock agents will be able to help you with information about likely *Beef Only* vendors.

Remember, *Beef Only* herds that have also been tested negative (e.g. in the BCTAS or CattleMAP) have added assurance.



BEING SURE THAT BEEF ONLY CATTLE ARE WHAT THEY ARE CLAIMED TO BE

The *Beef Only* classification is successful if everyone is confident that cattle sold as *Beef Only* are what they are supposed to be. To help ensure these responsibilities are met, the following measures are taken at various cattle sales throughout Australia:

- Auditing of compliance with NLIS and transaction tag requirements.
- Examination of *Beef Only* declarations for up to 100 percent of sale lots.
- On-farm audits of at least five percent of vendors to be conducted by animal health staff after the sale.

AGISTING YOUR BEEF ONLY CATTLE

To protect your cattle's *Beef Only* status when agisting, firstly make sure that the agisting property satisfies the *Beef Only* criteria. If it does, send your cattle with a completed National Cattle Health Statement and make sure they also come back with a signed National Cattle Health Statement. This provides the documentary evidence that their status has been maintained.

HOW DOES BEEF ONLY COMPARE TO EXISTING ASSURANCE CATEGORIES?

The relative rankings of assurance categories based on testing, such as Check Tested, Tested to MAP Standard and CattleMAPs MN 1, 2 and 3 still apply. A herd that satisfies the criteria for *Beef Only*, and also has one of these tested statuses, offers added assurance over and above an untested *Beef Only* herd.

This is now recognised in the Australian Johnne's Disease Market Assurance Program for Cattle (CattleMAP).

A *Beef Only* herd that is also in the CattleMAP gets one status credit in the CattleMAP. For instance, a *Beef Only* herd entering the CattleMAP would start on MN2 status.

On the National Cattle Health Statement, the herd owner should tick both its MN status and that it is *Beef Only*.

RANKING OF BJD ASSURANCE FOR BEEF HERDS (FROM MOST ASSURED TO LEAST)

1. Monitored Negative 3 (MN3)
2. Monitored Negative 2 (MN2)
3. Monitored Negative 1 (MN1)
4. Beef Cattle Trade Assurance Scheme (BCTAS)*
5. *Beef Only**
6. Tested to MAP Standard (in past 12 months)
7. Check Tested (in past 12 months)

* Cattle from BCTAS and *Beef Only* herds can enter MN1 herds.

Please note: Cattle from untested *Beef Only* herds will NOT be eligible for entry to Western Australia.

Whether buying or selling, make sure you protect your *Beef Only* status. By doing so, you could be opening up valuable trading opportunities now and into the future.

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