



Western Sheep & Beef Producers

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Bulletin – 19 February 2013

BJD

Readers will be well aware that export trading restrictions have been imposed on a small number of Kimberley cattle stations by Australia's Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO).

BJD is found worldwide, except for some Australian states and Norway and Sweden. The bacteria were discovered in 1905. Whilst related to a bird bacterium, BJD only affects mammals, normally ruminants.

In cattle, the main signs are diarrhoea and wasting, but the initial signs can be subtle, and may be limited to weight loss.

Most cases are seen in 2 to 6 year old animals.

BJD was first recorded in Australia over 90 years ago, and is most commonly found in dairy herds. It is prevalent in Victoria, NSW, Tasmania and South Australia.

Under our federal constitution, animal health is a state responsibility, but BJD control operates under nationally agreed standards endorsed by the Animal Health Committee (AHC). This committee is part of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) process and is made up of the Chief Veterinary Officers of the Commonwealth and all State and Territory Governments. The standards are currently in their 8th edition and describe the rules for testing, movement, tracing, identification, surveillance and monitoring, etc.

To prevent the further spread of the disease, zoning was introduced in 1999.

Australia is split into Free Zones (WA and Flinders Island), where BJD is not known to exist, Protected Zones (NT, upper SA and QLD) where there is little or no evidence of BJD, Beef Protected Areas (NSW and lower SA) where BJD amongst beef herds is rare, but aims to separate beef and dairy cattle enterprises, and finally, Managed Areas (Victoria and Tasmania), where BJD is well established in dairy herds and a voluntary approach to the disease is taken.

Movement between zones is permitted but is subject to mandatory health certificates/statements, declarations, Market Assurance Programs, and/or other restrictions.

BJD is on the WA list of Notifiable Stock Diseases. The list is made under the authority of the *Exotic Diseases of Animals Act 1993* and the *Stock Diseases (Regulations) Act of 1968*. Discretionary quarantine on suspicion of disease is applied.

LIVESTOCK COMMITTEE

The Chairman is seeking nominations from a southern beef producer to participate in the Livestock Committee. The Committee represents the interests of beef, wool and sheep meat producers, and acts as a sub-committee of the PGA Executive Committee to arrive at industry policy positions. In the first instance, please contact the Chairman on the mobile telephone number at the bottom of this bulletin.

MUCHEA LIVESTOCK CENTRE (MLC) USER GROUP

The Muchea Livestock Centre is seeking a nomination from the PGA for a representative to sit on its User Group. The user group consists of buyers, agents, livestock transporters and representatives of WAMIA and National Livestock Reporting Services Ltd. Meetings are generally held at the WAMIA Boardroom, Midland, or the livestock centre. It is necessary that any potential nominee is an actual user of the facility as the purpose of the group is to improve the standard and quality of services offered to the industry. Interested parties should contact the XO who will forward the nomination to the WAMIA CEO. The next meeting is scheduled for February 25.

UPCOMING MEETINGS – 2013

Pastoral Committee – 27 February

PGA Executive & AGM – 28 February

Kimberley Division - 19 April

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