

2017

BJD & LPA Information



Pastoralists & Graziers Association of WA

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Producers are encouraged to check the Animal Health Australia (AHA) website regularly for updates on these important matters.



Introduction

The changes to BJD Management in Western Australia (WA) will only have a direct effect on you after 30 June 2017 if your business undertakes the following activities;

1. Exports Cattle into the Northern Territory (NT)
2. Import cattle from other States into WA.
3. See a business advantage in minimising the risk of BJD on your property.

The new BJD arrangements will not affect the following:

1. How producers buy and sell cattle within WA
2. Requirements for specific international export markets.

Key Points

- Producers do not have to have a J-BAS score if they do not wish to – however the score is an import requirement for entry into NT and WA. Additionally some customers may have a preference for cattle with a higher J-BAS rating.
- All WA beef producers currently hold a transitional J-BAS score of 8
- All WA beef producers' J-BAS scores will drop to a J-BAS 6 after **30 June 2017** if they do not have a biosecurity plan with veterinary oversight in place.
- Biosecurity plans do not need to be lodged with anyone.
- If you wish to maintain a J-BAS 8 score, you must have a biosecurity plan overseen by a vet in place by **30 June 2017** and conduct the first triennial Check Test with negative results by **30 June 2018**.
- You may claim a J-BAS 8 score after 30 June 2017 if you have your biosecurity plan signed off by a vet in place and commit to completing the required testing by **30 June 2018**.
- If you do not complete your testing by **30 June 2018** you will not be able to continue to claim J-BAS 8 Status.
- All producers who currently hold Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) accreditation will be required to have a biosecurity plan in place after **1 October 2017**.
- You must hold LPA accreditation in order to obtain a National Vendor Declaration Form or its electronic equivalent.
- A Biosecurity plan will need to conform to the requirements outlined in the [National Farm Biosecurity Reference Manual – Grazing Livestock Production](#)
- LPA biosecurity information is available at: www.mla.com.au/meat-safety-and-traceability/red-meat-integrity-system/about-the-livestock-production-assurance-program/seven-lpa-requirements/biosecurity/
- There are currently two template plans that have been developed by the Livestock Biosecurity Network and Animal Health Australia that meet the requirements of both the LPA and J-BAS scheme



Key Dates for Producers

30 June 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• WA Producers who wish to maintain a J-BAS Score of 8 must have a Biosecurity Plan signed off by a Vet in place• If you do not have a plan in place you will drop to a J –BAS 6 Score
1 October 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All Australian Producers who are part of the LPA must have a Biosecurity Plan in Place.• This does not have to be overseen by a vet but can be the same plan that is required for a J-BAS score of 7 or above.
30 June 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Producers who wish to continue claiming a J-BAS score of 8 must have completed the required testing by this date.

Background

There has been a significant amount of confusion around the management of BJD in WA after 30 June 2017.

In WA there are four key aspects of the BJD situation that producers need to be aware of:

1. The implementation of the Johne's Beef Assurance Score ; and
2. WA's decision to continue BJD regulation
3. The Biosecurity Plan Required to obtain a J-BAS score; and
4. The new requirements for continued LPA accreditation, including a biosecurity plan

On 30 June 2017 transitional BJD management arrangements come to an end. The new management regime for BJD is a result of the Australian Beef industry deciding to deregulate the management of BJD throughout the country after a national review facilitated by Animal Health Australia (AHA).

AHA have since developed a risk assessment tool known as J-BAS to provide producers with a guide as to the risk of BJD occurring on their property or when buying cattle. Producers can use their J-BAS score (in conjunction with other tools) to demonstrate to buyers the risk of Johne's disease being present on a beef cattle property (e.g. by writing it on the national Cattle Health Declaration). All beef herds in Western Australia received the highest assurance level of J-BAS 8 (as long as they did not have a history of ovine Johne's disease on the property) when the J-BAS was introduced on 1 July 2016.

Participation in J-BAS is voluntary. It is not regulated by government. The Department of Agriculture and Food WA has developed a fact sheet outlining what the J-BAS scheme means for your business.

All Western Australian producers were give a transitional J-BAS score of 8, any producer who does not have a biosecurity plan in place (with veterinary oversight) by 30 June 2016 will drop to a J-BAS 6 score.



WA's Decision to Continue Border Controls for BJD

Whilst the rest of Australia sought to de regulate the management of BJD, Western Australia (WA) and the Northern Territory have continued to have some form of border controls in place in order to reduce the likelihood of BJD becoming widely established in the NT and WA.

These border control measures have been based on the J-BAS scheme. The Northern Territory is requiring cattle being imported from other States to be from a property that has a J-BAS score of 6 or above.

Western Australia is requiring all Cattle being brought in to the State (other than those going direct to slaughter or live export) to come from a property that has a J-BAS 7 from Queensland and the Northern Territory or a J-BAS 8 from the south-eastern states (with additional testing requirements).

The decision around Western Australia's continued BJD border requirements was made by the WA Cattle Industry Funding Scheme.

In order to enable continued border controls the World Trade Organisation (WTO) requires that WA proves that it is in fact free of BJD.

The Cattle Industry Funding Scheme has approved a testing program to determine the presence of BJD in WA. This testing will be carried out by the Department of Agriculture and is independent to the J-BAS system. However if you agree to participate in the DAFWA testing program the results of that testing are able to contribute towards a J-BAS rating if you wish.

DAFWA can only undertake testing on your property if you agree to do so.

Importing and Exporting Cattle Interstate

An **eligible property** refers to one on which there have not been, in the past 24 months:

- dairy or dairy-cross animals with less than a revised Dairy Score of 8 including a history of three negative triennial sample or herd environmental culture (HEC) tests; and
- no animals suspected or known to be infected with Johne's disease (JD).

Property of origin refers to any and all properties the stock resided on before 12 months of age.

Exporting to the NT from WA:

- You must provide owner declaration of herd free from Johne's disease for the preceding five years
- a property biosecurity plan
- a J-BAS of 6 or higher for beef cattle and buffalo
- a Dairy Score (DS) of 7 or higher for dairy cattle and dairy buffalo
- Identification with a three-hole punch applied to the centre of one ear for animals vaccinated with Silirum vaccine.



Importing Cattle from interstate to WA: All states and territories direct to slaughter or live export:

- Beef cattle entering Western Australia to be sent directly to export facilities or to abattoir facilities must meet the following requirements:
- have been born and grazed only on eligible properties and only with cattle that meet these conditions; and
- are not from a herd infected or suspected to be infected with JD for the last 5 years; and
- are from a property of origin that has a J-BAS 6 or higher; and
- are accompanied by a list of radio frequency identification devices (RFIDs) of all animals in the consignment.

Beef Cattle Entering the WA Herd from Northern Territory:

- Be accompanied by a declaration signed by the owner that the cattle:
- have been born and grazed only in the Northern Territory; and
- have been born and grazed only on eligible properties and only with cattle that meet these conditions; and
- are not from a herd infected or suspected to be infected with JD for the last 5 years; and
- are from a property of origin that has a J-BAS 7 or higher, and
- From 1 January 2018, the property of origin must have had a negative check test within the last 12 months.

Beef Cattle Entering the WA Herd from Queensland:

- Be accompanied by a declaration signed by the owner that the cattle:
- have been born and grazed only in Queensland or Northern Territory; and
- have been born and grazed only on eligible properties and only with cattle that meet these conditions; and
- are not from a herd infected or suspected to be infected with JD for the last 5 years; and
- are from a property of origin that has a J-BAS 7 or higher, and has had a negative check test within the last 12 months.

Beef Cattle Entering WA Herd from New South Wales and South Australia:

- Be accompanied by a declaration signed by the owner that the cattle:
- have been born and grazed only in New South Wales or South Australia; and
- have been born and grazed only on eligible properties and only with cattle that meet these conditions; and
- are not from a herd infected or suspected to be infected with JD for the last 5 years; and
- are from a property of origin with a J-BAS 8, with a history of at least two negative sample tests two years apart, and the animals have had no subsequent contact with cattle of a lower JD status.



Beef Cattle Entering the WA Herd from Victoria and Tasmania:

- Be accompanied by a declaration signed by the owner that the cattle:
- have been born and grazed only on eligible properties and only with cattle that meet these conditions; and
- are not from a herd infected or suspected to be infected with JD for the last 5 years; and
- are from a property of origin with a J-BAS 8, with a history of at least three negative sample tests two years apart, and the animals have had no subsequent contact with cattle of a lower JD status.

Biosecurity Plan

Producers wishing to obtain a J-BAS 7 score or higher will have to have a biosecurity plan (with veterinary oversight) in place by 30 June 2017. Additionally any producer who currently holds or wishes to recommit to the Livestock Production Assurance Program (LPA) accreditation post 1 October 2017 (you need to be committed to the LPA program to get National Vendor Declaration Documents, including the new electronic version), must have a biosecurity plan in place which is auditable under that system.

Biosecurity Plan Requirements

An on farm biosecurity plan needs to conform to the requirements outlined in the [National Farm Biosecurity Reference Manual – Grazing Livestock Production](#). In order to assist producers the Livestock Biosecurity Network and Animal Health Australia have developed two template plans that producers can use, that meet the biosecurity plan requirements of the LPA and J-BAS.

See: <https://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/On-Farm-Biosecurity-Plan-Template.pdf>

Producers can choose to use one of these template plans or develop their own.

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