# **Biosecurity plan checklist - Johne’s disease in cattle**

Johne’s disease risk is just one part of a farm biosecurity plan. This document should be used in conjunction with the *National Farm Biosecurity Reference Manual - Grazing Livestock Production* which is available from [www.farmbiosecurity.com.au](http://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au)

The purpose of this checklist is to provide advice about:

1. the components of a farm biosecurity plan that are specific to Johne’s disease
2. things to think about when assessing the risk of Johne’s disease when purchasing cattle.

The Biosecurity principles below refer to those described in the National Farm Biosecurity Reference Manual described above.

## **Principle 1 – Livestock**

**Manage the introduction and movement of livestock in a way that minimises the risk of introducing or spreading infectious disease (in this case Johne’s disease)**

Before purchasing stock, you will need to assess your individual Johne’s disease risk requirement. This will vary from enterprise to enterprise. For example, a stud farm may be particularly focussed on ensuring they do not purchase Johne’s disease infected cattle, whereas on a farm that purchases young stock for fattening and sale, Johne’s disease may be less important. Not all of the items in this checklist will be appropriate for all properties.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Issue** | **Comment** |
| Cattle Health Declaration (CHD) | All purchases should be accompanied by a CHD which should be retained (for at least 5 years)  Consider:  Does property of origin hold CHD for all purchases?  Does the CHD consider the risk of all properties during lifetime, especially between birth and 12 months of age? |
| Beef JD Assurance Score | Request the Beef JD Assurance score of the cattle being bought  Consider:  Aim for equivalent or higher score (lower risk), OR  Match to your situation and risk profile |
| Biosecurity plan | Does the property of origin have a biosecurity plan?  What are the specifics of JD management on the source property, and how do they match my own standards? |
| Dairy risk for beef industry | Have the cattle had (potential) exposure to dairy animals or land?  The Dairy Assurance Score for dairy cattle or dairy-cross animals is equivalent in terms of risk to the Beef JD Assurance Score |
| JD in sheep risk | Have the cattle had (potential) exposure to sheep (or land) which may be JD infected?  Consider:  What is the status of the sheep (MAP/infected/ unknown)?  Are the animals from a Regional Biosecurity Plan area for JD in sheep?  What is the sheep JD vaccination (Gudair®) history? |
| History – Infection | Is there a history of JD infection on the source property?  Consider:  When the infections occurred, how were they diagnosed and what action has been taken to resolve the infection (if any) |
| History - Suspicion | Is there a history of suspicion around clinical signs that might suggest JD on the property?  Consider:  Details - When, what signs, how investigated, results, etc?  What action has been taken to resolve, if any? |
| History - introductions | Is there a history of introduction of cattle from a herd where infection has been confirmed?  Consider:  Details - Introduction details, how investigated, results, etc?  What action has been taken to resolve, if any? |
| Previous negative herd testing | The Beef JD Assurance Score provides some information, but you may consider requesting more details.  Consider:  What additional testing has been undertaken, if any?  Sample test: When?  Check test: When?  Other? Details: e.g. negative results from investigation of suspect cases or cattle with clinical signs of JD |
| Vaccinated | Are the cattle vaccinated with Silirum®? Has Silirum been used on the origin property as a JD management tool? |

Your Biosecurity plan also needs to account for risks to stock after you have purchased them.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Issue** | **Comment** |
| Boundary fences | Regular inspection and maintenance to keep stock-proof  Consider double fencing high-risk boundaries |
| Gates and grids | Regular inspection and maintenance, gates kept closed |
| Strays | Documented plan for dealing with strays  Consider strays both onto and off property  Assess potential risk and treat accordingly on case-by-case basis |

## **Principle 5 – Animal Health Management**

**Prevent and control animal diseases on farm by regularly monitoring livestock health**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Issue** | **Comment** |
| Investigate/notify suspect cases | Any suspect clinical cases investigated and notified to CVO, in accordance with state legislation |
| Minimise potential exposure to infection or risk of infection | Identify high-risk animals and prioritise for culling   * (Suspect) Clinical cases * Dam, progeny and maternal siblings of clinical cases * Calfhood cohorts of clinical cases * Test-positive animals * Animals originating from high-risk sources |
| Don’t graze young animals in high-risk areas (e.g. adjacent to high-risk neighbours, with infected sheep, on land grazed by clinical or suspect cases) |
| JD vaccination of calves |
| Manage JD risk from sheep | Minimise cattle, and particularly calves, co-grazing with sheep |
| Determine the JD status of sheep on the property (on-farm testing or abattoir monitoring) |
| Vaccinate sheep if infected or at-risk for JD |
| Manage risk from other species | Evaluate potential risk from other species (goats/alpaca/deer) and implement measures as appropriate |
| Declaration | Producers must be truthful when completing Health Statements |
| Spread to other herds | If infection is detected, assess risks within the herd and notify people who have previously received cattle as low-risk to enable them to manage their revised risk. |

## **Principle 7: Carcass, effluent and waste management**

**Disposal of dead animals and waste is managed to minimise the spread of disease**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Issue** | **Comment** |
| Manure/effluent | Affected waterways have been found to spread JD. Potential sources of manure or effluent, including cross-boundary waterways, identified and treated to minimise risk of spreading infection |