

Merino Matters



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New OJD Management Plan – An Overview

The new National Ovine Johnes Disease (OJD) Management Plan 2013-2018 is in effect from 1st July, 2013. It has been formalised to try to minimise the spread of the disease and reduce the adverse animal health impacts and financial burdens. There are no longer ABC points or zones within Australia. Individual states can impose their own entry requirements. For further details: www.ojd.com.au or contact DAFWA.

How does this affect you:

The new national Sheep Health Statement (SHS) is now available. While the (SHS) is not compulsory in W.A., requesting a completed SHS from a vendor is the most reliable way a purchaser can obtain a comprehensive health record of the stock; including details on OJD testing, accreditation and vaccination records as well as Lice and Brucellosis details.

Copies of the SHS can be obtained at www.ojd.com.au or by telephoning 1800 332 312.

Approved negative tests are one part of a broader disease monitoring strategy and are a requirement to enter some states, these include: Pooled Faecal Culture (PFC), Abattoir 500 and Abattoir 150 test. (Refer the SHS for descriptions). To request your abattoir inspection of your sheep at slaughter or obtain a PFC contact the DAFWA - OJD co-ordinator .

Further biosecurity information, including how to develop on farm or Regional Biosecurity Plans (RBP) can be obtained from www.farmbiosecurity.com.au.

The Australian Johne's Disease Market Assurance Programs for sheep (Sheep MAP) is a quality assurance program which incorporates farm biosecurity and other measures. More information is available on the Animal Health Australia website: www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au

Vaccination is the most effective option to reduce infection and spread of the disease, but must be carried out at the right time and in the correct way for it to be effective. Refer to product instructions or contact a Zoetis representative.



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