

Merino Matters



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Risk Management for OJD

THE continual spread of OJD in WA has led to the state of WA being declared a medium risk state.

Western Australia is now in a position that some parts of the Eastern States were in 10 years ago so we have the opportunity to learn from their experiences.

One thing is for sure that if you run any breed of sheep you are at risk of OJD infection and the main cause of spread is movement of sheep.

With the recent seminars held in WA in regard to vaccination of OJD it has left many growers asking, what should they be doing.

So with that in mind what can sheep growers do to reduce the risk of their property becoming infected and should they vaccinate. If you are in a high risk category it is recommended to vaccinate.

First assess your risk and ask yourself what level of risk are you at.

Risk levels (higher) (lower)

1. Rainfall areas >350mm (higher) <350mm (lower)
2. Self replacing flock (lower)
3. Purchases and Trading of sheep (higher)
4. Purchase of vaccinated sheep (lower)
5. Tested flocks in last two years with no infection (lower)
6. Infected flocks in your area (higher)
7. Water shed from infected areas (higher)
8. Straying animals (higher)
9. Ram purchase from Sheep MAP accredited or approved vaccinated flocks (lower)
10. Use of National Health Statement (lower) the higher the ABC score the better.
11. Movement of sheep between properties (higher)

OJD Assurance Based Credit (ABC) Points details on the back of the National Sheep Health Statement which should be used when buying and selling sheep.

The more points you have the less risk you have.

State of WA.	2 points
Sheep Map 3 negative tests	4 points
Sheep Map 1 negative tests	2 points
Negative PFC 350 in last 12 months	2 points
Negative Abattoir 500 test	2 points
Negative Abattoir 150 test	1 point
Second generation approved vaccinates	4 points
Sheep are approved vaccinates and were born when the whole flock were approved vaccinates	3 points
Whole flock are approved vaccinates	2 points
Approved vaccinates	1 point

For more information contact Department Agriculture & Food WA.



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