

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES NEW ENGLAND OJD EXCLUSION AREA

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Guidelines for the common management of the Ovine Johnes Disease Exclusion Areas covering the New England Livestock Health and Pest Authority area.

1. OBJECTIVE

To minimise the impact of OJD on New England sheep producers by both the prevention of entry of OJD into the Authority and also managing any disease events.

Exclusion Area management will depend on producer acceptance and adoption of biosecurity and risk management strategies and will be driven primarily by education.

2. EXCLUSION AREA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

2.1. Structure

The authority is responsible for the daily administration of the EA and carrying out those responsibilities defined in roles and responsibilities for animal health staff.

Management is to be undertaken by a group known as “Exclusion Area Management Committee” (EAMC).

The New England EA is defined by the boundaries of the New England LHPA.

The EAMC is made of

- 2 Directors from the Authority
- General Manager or delegate
- Senior District Veterinarian and/or the Program Leader for the OJD program in the authority
- 2 representatives of the OJD Coordinating Committee

A chairman is to be elected from one of the director representatives. The EAMC is to meet annually and more frequently if required. The executive officer for the EAMC will be the DV leading the OJD program.

2.2. Responsibilities

2.2.1. EAMC Directors and Authority General Manager

- Develop an operational plan
- Resource the operational plan with sufficient staff and funds.
- Act in compliance with state legislation and policies
- Dispute resolution
- Financial management and accountability
- Evaluation and reporting annually to NSW I&I OJD Coordinator by 28th February.
- Demonstrate ongoing support in accordance with I&I policy O-088

2.2.2. Producers

- Introduction of low risk animals
- Notify the Authority prior to or within 7 days of any introductions by providing a copy of the National Sheep Health statement to the Authority.
- Follow advice.
- Develop and implement a Property Disease Management Plan as required

- Test if required
- Vaccinate if required

2.2.3. Animal Health Staff

- act in compliance with the relevant Act, Regulations, Policies and Procedures
- Implement education program
- Implement advisory program
- Update educational and advisory programs as prevalence changes
- Develop PDMP's
- Carry out testing on high risk introductions
- Undertake surveillance
- Undertake tracing
- Report as required

3. OPERATIONAL PLAN

3.1. Educational Program:

The education program will underpin the operational plan and will target our sheep producers and agents. The key messages will include:

- Individual producers are responsible
- Purchase low risk sheep
- Check NSHS

Three educational activities will be undertaken each year and may take the form of a newsletter, a newspaper article or a workshop.

3.2. Advice on introductions

The recommended entry requirement into the board is five Assurance Based Credit (ABC) points.

3.3. Financial Management

- Administration: According to guidelines set down by GM and the OJD EAMC. Budgeting will be via the Authority's usual process taking into consideration that funding the EA is the responsibility of the GM.
- See Appendix 5 for financial assistance to producers

3.4. Managing Abattoir Surveillance and Tracing

Abattoir tracing provides the basis for data on OJD prevalence for the National OJD Program. This information provides the supporting information to back up exclusion area claims of a very low prevalence of OJD.

Along with negative surveillance data the abattoir surveillance program also provides traceback information on lines inspected where signs of OJD are found. These are sampled and examined histopathologically to confirm the presence of mycobacterium paratuberculosis.

Sheep are examined as boxed and direct (single) lines . Direct lines are where a single vendor has provided all the sheep for a grouping of sheep slaughtered at an abattoir.

Where sheep from direct lines are traced back to a property within the exclusion area action must be taken to:

- Determine the likelihood that the identified flock is responsible for the infected sheep.
- Determine if tracing information provided is correct.

3.5. Protocol for Risk Assessment of Abattoir Traces

Refer to Policy O-054 OJD Abattoir Monitoring – Reporting and Follow up of Positive Traces

All flocks identified in abattoir traces should be sent a “risk assessment questionnaire for abattoir traces” (Appendix 4.)

A risk assessment is undertaken based on the responses to this questionnaire

3.5.1. High Risk Flocks - A flock may be considered high risk if

- They have introduced high risk sheep.
- Neighbours of a known infected property
- Been identified in boxed lots on a previous occasion
- The trace is from a direct line

3.5.2. Low risk flocks - A flock is may be considered low risk if

- They did not sell sheep on the day
- Have a MAP status or current OJD testing history
- Negative abattoir surveillance 500 in the past 2 years
- Not previously identified in boxed lots

The assessed risk will determine what further action is required and will be dependant on epidemiology, financial constraints, trade patterns and the cooperativeness of the producer/s involved. Any regulatory action taken will be of a last resort and will be in accordance with PRO 2009/010.

3.6. Recording System for Abattoir Traces

All property details on abattoir traces should be kept on a local spreadsheet or database.

The details kept should include the property owner, PIC, date of abattoir trace and trace details.

Each time a new abattoir trace is received part of the risk assessment should include interrogating the database to determine if any flocks have previously been involved in traces.

3.7. Assessing the Risk of Sheep Introductions

An assessment of the sheep introductions must be undertaken using the standard Risk Assessment Form (Appendix 2).

3.7.1. Triggers Highlighted in assessment are:

- Not home bred
- indicated introduced sheep are lower ABC score than consignment (circle question on NSHS)

- low ABC score
- Or anything else that may not reflect true ABC score
- Points derived from vaccination without testing
- T tagged lambs (circle question on NSHS)
- Those flocks in an OJD vaccination program where all restocker lambs are vaccinated by 16weeks (circle question on NSHS).

3.7.2. Final Assessment based on the highest risk from all criteria assessed.

3.7.2.1. High Risk. (ABC points 1 or 2)

- Contact notifier to verify details on NSHS and discuss the introduction
- Inform purchaser that for the purposes of entry to QLD the flock now requires 5 points.
- Prepare a PDMP for period from testing to results
- Modify PDMP if tests positive
- If tested negative further testing may be required (serial testing).
- PDMP as per Appendix 3 for lambs introduced for fattening.

3.7.2.2. Medium Risk. (ABC points 3)

- Contact notifier to verify details on NSHS and discuss the introduction
- Inform purchaser that for the purposes of entry to QLD the flock now requires 5 points
 - First Introduction
 - Advice
 - Outlining risk to his flock and neighbours
 - Verify SHS details
 - Second or continued introductions at this risk.
 - If medium risk introductions are continued testing will be required (see next point)
 - Third Such Introduction.
 - Further action for repeated medium risk introductions
 - Most common example of this would be introductions of rams as small numbers annually. Although each is a medium risk repeated introductions will increase the risk.
 - PDMP
 - Possible action:
 - SFC introduced rams
 - PFC whole ram paddock
 - Testing at owners expense

3.7.2.3. Low Risk (ABC points 4+)

- No action
- Keep all SHS and risk assessments

3.8. Monitoring Sheep Introductions via the NSW I&I OJD Movement Report.

This report is accessed from

http://extranet.dpi.nsw.gov.au/rlpb/animal_resources/nlis/reports2/ojd-reports

A member of the LHPA animal health team will review the reports available monthly, sort it and distribute to staff in each office for action as per New England LHPA SOP for Detection

of Failure to Notify Entry of Sheep into the OJD EA via NLIS-S Mob Based Movement Database.

3.9. Response to failure to notify:

As per regulatory policy and procedures and notify RVO of any regulatory action taken.

3.10. Components of PDMP

The PDMP should include strategies such as

- bio-security for benefit of infected flock and neighbours
- Trading options
- Notification of neighbours
- Tracing information
- Testing
- Vaccination
- Destocking or a combination of the above 3.

3.11. Unwillingness to sign a PDMP:

If at any stage a producer is unwilling to sign an agreed PDMP the dispute resolution process begins involving the EAMC. The RVO should also be notified in case a regulatory path is required.

If PDMP still not agreed to then access to reserved powers may be considered.

If regulatory action is the outcome the RVO should be notified.

3.12. Dispute Resolutions Procedures

Areas where disputes may be anticipated include

- Assessment of risk
- PDMP's
- Financial assistance
- Inconsistencies in application of EA rules
- Non co-operators

A dispute resolution group consisting of the EAMC Chairman and the RVO should be formed and be made available to disaffected producers.

The RVO will need to be advised of any dispute.

Disputes regarding regulatory functions should be handled by the RVO and EAMC.

3.13. Surveillance Activities

The LHPA will undertake flock investigations if there is indication of significant risk.

Abattoir surveillance data will form the basis of surveillance.

3.14. Application of the Privacy Act principles

EAMC members are not to be advised of individual property details.

A technical group made up of district Veterinarians and/or Rangers will be responsible for reporting activities to the EAMC in a form that ensures no disclosure of individual property information.

Affected adjoining properties and traces are to be advised as appropriate.

Traces to other Authorities are to be notified to the SDV of the respective authority.

3.15. Exit strategy

Decision trigger for EA end point

- The Board of Directors of the Authority to decide
- Unable to demonstrate compliance with Policy O-088 Exclusion Areas.

3.16. Act in compliance with state legislation and policy:

It is not the role of Exclusion Area Management Committee to direct regulatory action. A group within the committee consisting of District Veterinarians or Rangers can advise on such matters for the EAMC.

Management should include the following principles:

- The spirit of the approach outlined in the 'Building Blocks' is followed
- NSW I&I Policy is followed.
- Regulatory components will be implemented in accordance with State legislation and policy
- Use of strong regulatory measures are a last resort
- Any regulation will be applied only by an Inspector in accordance with State legislation.
- Inspectors will operate independently to EAMC.

3.17. Evaluation and reporting:

EAMC's must conduct evaluation and reporting in accordance with I&I policy O-088.

4. MAINTAINING EA STATUS

Will be undertaken in accordance with I&I policy O-088.

APPENDIX 1: DEFINITIONS

Suspected to be infected flock

A flock is suspected to be infected with OJD if the owner has reasonable grounds to believe that it has been exposed to OJD infection or that OJD may exist in the flock, based on:

- Trace back or trace forward contact with an infected flock
- Contact with OJD contaminated land or facilities
- a positive Johne's disease screening test
- The flock neighbours an infected flock
- The flock has introduced sheep with an ABC Score of 0
- Clinical signs of OJD
- advice from the relevant state agricultural department

and the flock has not met the requirements for resolution of suspicion

APPENDIX 2: RISK ASSESSMENT FORM

Cross Reference to SHS.....

Introduced by.....

Introduced to.....

Date..... Number of Sheep.....

Risk Assessment Carried out by.....

Risk	ABC Points	Origin of Sheep	Vaccination Or Testing	Number Introduced	3 Questions at Bottom R of AHS
High	0,1,2	Infected flock High Prev Area	Vaccination without testing	>100	Any ticked yes
Medium	3	Medium Prev Area		10 - 100	
Low	4, 5	Low Prev Area Very Low Prev Area Exclusion area	Current testing history +/- vaccination	<10	

- Circle the cell in each column which refers to the information on the SHS
- Where not relevant leave blank
 - Determine the risk of the introduction (high/medium/low) according to the column with the highest individual risk.

Signed.....Name.....Date.....

APPENDIX 3:

PDMP FOR SHEEP INTRODUCED FOR SHORT TERM FATTENING

For use in sheep introduced into the Northern OJD Exclusion Area for short term fattening that are assessed as High Risk according to the Management Guidelines.

Section 1:

Property of Origin:

LHPA of Origin:

Description of Sheep:

Number	Year Born	Breed, Sex & Type	PIC on ear tag

Risk Assessment: (as per Appendix 2)

		Risk (High/Medium/Low)
ABC Points		
Origin/Status		
Vaccination/Testing		
Number of Sheep		

Section 2:

1. Property where the sheep are being depastured:
.....
.....

2. Description of paddocks where depastured:
.....

3. Description of fence where sheep are being depastured (and indicate whether inspection is necessary):
.....

.....
4. Date of introduction:

5. Concurrent property enterprises:
.....
.....

Section 3:

1. Proposed strategy for fattening and selling:
.....
.....
.....

2. Specific details of how/where sheep are to be sold for slaughter:
.....
.....
.....

3. Proposed date by which all sheep must be sold from the property:
.....

4. Proposed strategies if sheep are not suitable for sale for slaughter at the date set when sheep should have been sold by:
.....
.....

Section 4:

1. Neighbours with sheep:

.....

.....

-
2. Recommend notifying neighbours at risk:
 3. Strategies to maintain fences between properties where seen as necessary:

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Section 5:

Special Conditions:

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Name of Owner/Manager	Signature	Date
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Inspector	Signature	Date
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Appendix 4.

Risk Assessment Questionnaire for Abattoir Traces.

NEW ENGLAND OJD EXCLUSION AREA

RISK ASSESSMENT DRAFT FOR ABATTOIR TRACEBACK

Name

Property PIC

Abattoir traceback details

Abattoir Line number

Date killed

Details of sheep sold

Type of sheep Age of sheep

Source of sheep

Bred on farm Y/N

Purchased Y/N

If purchased, date and place of purchase

Enterprise details

Total number of sheep

Enterprise type Merino

Merino stud Y/N (if yes how many?)

Merino breeding Y/N (if yes how many?)

Merino wool Y/N (if yes how many?)

Other breeds/ 1st X ewes

Breed/enterprise type

..... Number

..... Number

..... Number

Sheep trader Y/N

Any further details deemed relevant (re speciality breeds, trading in sheep etc)

.....

.....

Introductions over the last 5 years including rams

Description	Number	Source of sheep
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Has there been an unusual number of unexplained deaths following wasting?

Y/N

.....

.....

Approximate number of sheep sold to abattoirs in the past 2 years

.....

Owner/manager

.....

Date

APPENDIX 5

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR PRODUCERS

Producers may be entitled to financial assistance in the event of detection of OJD. Assistance may be provided to either infected properties or neighbours or both. This assistance may be in the form of:

- Partial/full cost of vaccinating
- Partial/full cost of testing

The availability of the financial assistance will be determined by a number of factors including:

- Availability of funds
- Development of an approved PDMP
- Predicted effectiveness of control/eradication program and includes:
 - Extent of the detected infection
 - Time of infection present
 - How the infection occurred
 - Cooperativeness of the affected producer

Producers will need to apply in writing to the Authority for financial assistance. Approval of the assistance will be at the discretion of the Authority.