

Johne's Beef Assurance Score (J-BAS)

Frequently asked questions (FAQ's) for NT producers

On 1 July 2016, a new national approach to the management of Johne's disease (JD) in cattle was implemented. The new approach is based on an industry-focused market assurance system, where producers are responsible for maintaining biosecurity against JD on their properties.

J-BAS is a tool to guide cattle producers on the risk of JD occurring on a beef cattle property. Producers can use a J-BAS score (in conjunction with other tools) to demonstrate to buyers the risk of JD being present their property.

From 1 October 2017, biosecurity will also be included in the industry Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) program. Every LPA-accredited producer must ensure biosecurity requirements are fulfilled both on-property and during the transport of livestock between properties including to slaughter and live export. Biosecurity practices and the biosecurity plan will be **auditable** and will be part of the LPA **accreditation assessment process**.

What is a J-BAS score?

The J-BAS score is a number from 0 to 8 which represents the risk of Johne's disease being present on a property. The higher the J-BAS score, the lower the risk of the property having JD. See the [J-BAS score chart](#) on the next page.

Do I have to have a J-BAS score?

No. However, a J-BAS declaration may be required to trade with some properties or to gain entry into WA or NT.

What J-BAS score do I have now?

On 1 July 2016, all NT properties were given a J-BAS score 7 under the transition arrangements. From **1 July 2017**, NT properties will automatically drop to J-BAS score 6 unless the property has implemented J-BAS measures.

How do I get a J-BAS score?

See [J-BAS Flowchart](#) (Information sheet No. 3)

From **1 July 2017** all NT properties will be recognised as a [J-BAS 6](#).

To get a score of 7 or 8, a veterinarian will need to oversee the biosecurity plan and undertake JD herd sampling and laboratory testing by **30 June 2018**.

You may not think you need a J-BAS score now but if you want to sell into JD-sensitive markets in the future, a J-BAS score may be required. You may face expensive testing and time delays if you allow your J-BAS score to drop and want to return to a higher score.

What J-BAS score do I need?

Assess your markets. Your buyers will determine which, if any, J-BAS score they will require. Live export markets currently require a property to be free from JD for up to 5 years which is consistent with J-BAS 6. Abattoirs, saleyards and feedlots are unlikely to require a specific J-BAS but have other requirements. Individual properties may ask for a specific J-BAS.

Consider where you currently move your cattle or may need to move your cattle in the future. If you want to sell or move cattle into WA, you will need at least a J-BAS 7 score (other requirements may apply). There are no specific movement controls for JD in other states, but producers have an obligation not to introduce JD infection.

Consider your own biosecurity needs. If it is important for your business to have high biosecurity, J-BAS may help you achieve this.

What if I have properties in the NT, WA and/or other states?

Livestock entry requirements still apply for NT and WA. See [JD livestock movement requirements](#) (Information sheet No. 4)

What if my cattle test positive to JD?

JD remains a notifiable disease in the NT, and must be reported to the Chief Veterinary Officer. If initial test results are positive for JD, further testing of the herd will be required to confirm JD infection. If JD is confirmed on the property, DPIR will work with the property owners to develop a property management plan to meet the trade markets for the property.

Johne's Beef Assurance Score

The Johne's Beef Assurance Score (J-BAS) is a risk profiling tool developed for use in the new approach to Johne's disease (JD) in beef cattle. It is meant to be used as a guide and producers should ask further questions about JD in the herd and on the property, rather than rely on the score alone.

Johne's Beef Assurance Score (J-BAS) [numbers equate to Dairy Score]				
On-farm biosecurity plan implemented*	Biosecurity plan implemented for minimum of 5 years	Testing, plus veterinary advisor for plan	Two successive negative Sample tests 2 years apart, and ongoing triennial Check Test	8 High assurance
			One negative Sample test a minimum of 5 years after the last confirmed clinical case (or if no history of disease) and ongoing triennial Check Test	7 Assurance
			No history of JD on property or minimum 5 years since last clinical case confirmed on property	6 Managed disease risk
			If previously infected, minimum of 2 years of biosecurity plan implemented and since last clinical case of JD confirmed on property, plus all high-risk animals identified and removed If no previous infection, biosecurity plan in place for 2 years	4 Progressing
			Biosecurity plan in place Clinical case(s) removed	2 First steps
				Suspect, infected and unknown

*J-BAS will require a property biosecurity plan for all scores. The [On-farm biosecurity plan template](#), which incorporates the JD Biosecurity Checklist, has been developed for producers to use for this purpose. This meets the national industry minimum standards of the [National Farm Biosecurity Reference Manual – Grazing Livestock Production](#) and the biosecurity requirements being introduced under the Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) program on 1 October 2017. See **Property Biosecurity Plan** (Information Sheet No. 5) for more information on Biosecurity planning.

JD in other species that are susceptible should also be included in deciding the score.

To view the **complete Johne's Beef Assurance Score publication**, go to www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/J-BAS_April-2017-2.pdf

Resources

J-BAS and JD in cattle *Definitions and Guidelines* at www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/jd-cattle-tools/

Biosecurity and LPA www.mla.com.au/meat-safety-and-traceability/red-meat-integrity-system/about-the-livestock-production-assurance-program/seven-lpa-requirements/biosecurity/

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