

Property Biosecurity Plan

Information for NT livestock owners

A property biosecurity plan will be part of John's Beef Assurance Score (J-BAS) and will also be a requirement for the [Livestock Production Assurance \(LPA\)](#) program from 1 October 2017.

The same on-farm planning template can be used for J-BAS and the LPA program, with producers who have a JD focus required to complete the optional JD questions.

It is important for NT producers to note that NT herds which were given a J-BAS 7 in the transition period (1 July 2016 – 1 July 2017) will revert to a J-BAS 6 rather than J-BAS 0 if no on-farm biosecurity plan is in place on 1 July 2017.

Developing a property biosecurity plan

Effective biosecurity at the property and industry level is considered to be extremely important in minimising the risk of the introduction or spread of animal diseases. A property biosecurity plan contains all the measures used to reduce the risks of disease entry or spread.

Australia's grazing industries have published the [National property biosecurity reference manual—grazing livestock production](#) as the basis for developing a property biosecurity plan.

The general principles for the biosecurity are that producers should:

- assess the risk of introducing weeds, pests and diseases posed by recent and current management and take steps to reduce that risk.
- always ask for a health declaration when buying cattle or other livestock to assess and manage the risk of stock offered for sale.
- assume responsibility for managing the risks of diseases on their property.
- maintain good on-property biosecurity practices.
- if selling livestock interstate, be familiar with the [rules and restrictions on trading cattle interstate](#) and if purchasing cattle from interstate, be familiar with the NT entry requirements.

Additional JD requirements for cattle:

- ask for a J-BAS when buying beef breeds of cattle.
- ask for the Dairy BJD Assurance Score when buying dairy breeds of cattle or beef breeds from dairy holdings.
- use the JD biosecurity checklist for guidance

For more information contact your regional Animal Biosecurity Office

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Resources for developing a biosecurity plan for J-BAS

J-BAS is underpinned by having a general property biosecurity plan (which will also be used for LPA from 1 October 2017), but with an additional Johne's disease element included. As J-BAS itself is a tool for voluntary use by producers trading cattle, there is no property plan mandated for use with it.

However, several documents based on the *National Property Biosecurity Reference Manual—Grazing Livestock Production* and *JD Biosecurity Checklist* have been developed to allow producers to meet the on-property biosecurity planning requirement:

- The Livestock Biosecurity Network have developed the [On Farm Biosecurity Plan \(including Johne's disease\)](#), which is a detailed template that producers can use to custom build an on-property biosecurity plan specific to their property.
- The [On-farm biosecurity plan](#) template is for producers to work through, with links to supporting documents to access and fill in as required. An additional action list, outlining biosecurity activities to be undertaken over the next 12 months, would help to make this a robust on-property biosecurity plan specific to the property.
- BioCheck® – a property biosecurity planning program developed by the Australian Cattle Veterinarians. Producers should talk to their local cattle veterinarian about using this planning tool, particularly if interested in maintaining a J-BAS of 7 or 8.

Producers may use any of the above plans or, while discouraged, develop their own if it satisfies the J-BAS requirements. Some markets may have a preference for what biosecurity plan is used.

What do I do with the plan?

- There is no need to lodge a plan with anyone.
- If veterinary supervision is required for J-BAS 7 and 8, then work with your veterinarian.
- Implement the plan – any items identified as requiring attention should be acted on during the following 12 months before you then review the plan.
- Make sure all staff are aware of the plan.
- Keep your plan and any related documents on hand for future reference.

Johne's Beef Assurance (J-BAS) is managed by Animal Health Australia on behalf of Cattle Council of Australia. For more information see https://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/J-BAS_April-2017-2.pdf

Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) program is the Australian livestock industry's on-farm assurance program covering food safety, animal welfare and biosecurity and is managed by Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA). Producers who purchase and use National Vendor Declarations are part of the LPA program and LPA-accredited producers. Biosecurity plans will be auditable under the LPA program. For more information see <https://www.mla.com.au/meat-safety-and-traceability/red-meat-integrity-system/about-the-livestock-production-assurance-program/seven-lpa-requirements/biosecurity/>

Both J-BAS and LPA are voluntary industry programs but may be necessary to access specific markets.