

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			0 Unmanaged risk

*All plans must be documented. The *National Farm Biosecurity Reference Manual - Grazing Livestock Production* provides a template to use for the property biosecurity plan. All plans should include the *JD in Cattle Biosecurity Checklist*.

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

A clinical case is an infected animal with chronic diarrhoea and weight-loss that does not respond to treatment.

Transitional arrangements for previous CattleMAP and JD zone herds until 30 June 2017

- CattleMAP MN1, MN2 & MN3 herds to Level 8
- CattleMAP herds with a history of clinical disease due to sheep strain go to an appropriate level depending on the time since the last clinical case was recorded
- Free Zone herds to Level 8**
- Protected Zone herds to Level 7**
- *Beef Only* to Level 7**
- Beef Protected Area beef herds to Level 7**
- Victorian TCP beef herds to enrol according to how long since their last clinical case
- Herds in the Management Area that do not qualify above to Level 0.

** Herds in these areas are considered to have had property biosecurity plan equivalence through previous zoning, i.e. once the property plan is implemented they are considered to have had a biosecurity plan in place for the required period.

Producers should use the *JD in Cattle Biosecurity Checklist* (available at:

www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/jd-cattle-tools/) for information on co-grazing with sheep and exposure to dairy cattle. Producers should also ask further questions of the vendor to assess risk.

The initial Check Test must be a component of the Biosecurity Plan, with the initial test occurring by 30 June 2018.

Maintenance arrangements

- All levels (excluding 0)
 - Establish property biosecurity plan by 1/7/17, or lapse to Level 0
 - Maintain biosecurity plan
 - Investigate and resolve all suspect cases
- Level 8
 - Plan overseen by veterinary advisor (annual review)¹
 - Triennial Check Test
- Level 7
 - Plan overseen by veterinary advisor (annual review)¹
 - Triennial Check Test
- Level 6
 - If previous infection then all high-risk animals identified and removed
- Level 4
 - If previous infection then all high-risk animals identified and removed

Events that affect Assurance level

- Levels 7 & 8 where testing confirms infection in an animal with no clinical signs:
 - Drop to Level 6, provided other elements of Level 6 are met
 - Are eligible to retest 2 years after the last high risk animal(s) removed to progress to Level 7.

¹ In most cases, 'overseen' means the vet views the Plan and provides advice on where changes are needed for the specific herd and property. Some buyers may require veterinary sign-off.

Explanation of the Johne's Beef Assurance Score transition

1. Herds previously in the Market Assurance Program for cattle (CattleMAP) have commenced with the highest J-BAS of 8. The herd can be maintained at score 8 by doing a Check Test (with negative results) of the most susceptible animals in the herd every three years, and the employment of a veterinary adviser to oversee an annual review (see footnote 1) of the farm Biosecurity Plan. The first of the triennial Check Tests must be completed by 30/6/18. CattleMAP herds that have had clinical cases due to sheep strain will revert to the appropriate score, depending on the length of time since the last case.
2. Herds in the previous Free Zone (WA) will commence with a J-BAS of 8. To maintain score 8 the producer must implement a Biosecurity Plan supervised by a veterinary adviser by 30 June 2017, and conduct the first triennial Check Test with negative results by 30 June 2018. The herd does need to have a biosecurity plan in place for a minimum of 5 years to stay at score 8, however Western Australia's existing control system is counted towards the five year requirement.
3. Herds previously in the Protected Zone (Qld, NT and pastoral SA), the Beef Protected Zone (NSW and non-pastoral SA) or previously qualifying as a *Beef Only* herd in the Management Zone (Vic and Tas) will commence with a J-BAS of 7. To maintain score 7 the producer must implement an on-farm Biosecurity Plan, supervised by a veterinary adviser, by 30 June 2017 and conduct a triennial Check Test (with negative results) by 30 June 2018. The herd does need to have an on-farm Biosecurity Plan for a minimum of 5 years to stay at score 7, however previous state/territory control systems are counted towards this requirement.
4. Where a herd has a J-BAS of 7 or 8 for the transitional period but the owner does not wish to undertake Check Testing or employ a veterinary adviser to supervise their on farm Biosecurity Plan, they can maintain a score of 6 by implementing their own Biosecurity Plan before 30 June 2017. Part of the Biosecurity Plan would be to investigate all suspect cases and where there has been an infection to remove all high-risk animals.
5. A herd which has not had a clinical case of JD for a minimum of two years, has removed all high-risk animals and has had a Biosecurity Plan in place for a minimum of two years, will have a J-BAS of 4. Once these herds have not had a clinical case of JD for at least 5 years and have maintained a Biosecurity Plan for at least 5 years, they can advance to score 6.
6. Herds which did not qualify as J-BAS 7 or 8 in the transitional period but have had no previous infection with JD and have implemented a Biosecurity Plan will be given a score of 4. Once these herds have not had a clinical case of JD for at least 5 years and have maintained a Biosecurity Plan for at least 5 years, they can advance to score 6.
7. An infected herd which has removed all clinical cases and has implemented a Biosecurity Plan can claim a J-BAS of 2.
8. Herds which do not have a Biosecurity Plan implemented by 30 June 2017 will have a J-BAS of 0.

How does a producer establish a Biosecurity Plan?

The *National Farm Biosecurity Reference Manual - Grazing Livestock Production* is available from the website www.farmbiosecurity.com.au and provides a template to use for the property biosecurity plan. It has specific livestock and animal health management sections which outline suggested practices to be included in a cattle Biosecurity Plan. All plans should include the *JD in Cattle Biosecurity Checklist*.