

IMPROVE YOUR FLOCK'S OJD HEALTH STATUS MAXIMISE YOUR TRADING OPPORTUNITIES

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A HEALTHY AND WEALTHY SHEEP INDUSTRY

Managing OJD is important and can improve your trading opportunities. If left uncontrolled the disease can spread, causing devastating annual stock losses of up to 10-20% in adult flocks. By carrying-out some simple management practices, and requesting a Sheep Health Statement every time you purchase or agist sheep, you will reduce contamination on-farm (if your flock is already infected) and protect your business (if your flock isn't infected).

SHEEP HEALTH STATEMENTS—WHAT'S THE SCORE?

Using a Sheep Health Statement (SHS) declares your flock's health status for a range of sheep diseases and treatments, and increases the competition for your sheep. In other words, if you're buying in sheep, a SHS helps you to know exactly what you're bringing on to your farm – if you're selling sheep, a SHS will make your sheep more attractive to potential buyers/markets.

For OJD the SHS has four categories which contribute points to build an Assurance Based Credit (ABC) score. You can use any or all of these measures to improve your flock's health status, and gain trading credits at the same time. Remember, the higher your ABC score is, the lower your flock's OJD risk status will be.

Category A	=	Prevalence Area – where your flock is located or whether your flock is suspected of being infected.
Category B	=	Flock Testing
Category C	=	Use of Vaccination
Category D	=	Flock Risk Assessment

BOOST YOUR ABC SCORE IN FIVE EASY STEPS

- Step One Work out your flock's current score and where you'd like to be in the future.
- Step Two Decide how many points you need for your trade.
- Step Three Choose the most appropriate management options, or combination of options, for your flock from Category B, C or D. This will protect your business, or reduce the level of disease already in your flock, and provide the trading credits you need.
- Step Four Develop a management plan to implement the practices you have identified. Build this into your farm biosecurity plan and review regularly with your animal health advisor.
- Step Five Provide a SHS to maximise competition for your sheep by demonstrating to potential buyers that you are actively managing the risk of OJD (and other diseases) in your flock.

FLOCK TESTING AND VACCINATION REALLY DOES WORK

You can get up to four additional points, depending on the level and type of testing you conduct and the results you receive (as shown in the table below).

	TESTING METHOD	POINTS	DESCRIPTION
ABATTOIR MONITORING	Abattoir Surveillance (500 sheep)	up to 2 pts <i>valid for 2 yrs</i>	<p>You must have had at least 500 sheep over two-years-of-age examined through abattoir monitoring in the past 24 months and hold a negative surveillance report.</p> <p>The sheep must have been on your property for at least two years before examination.</p> <p>As the sheep may have been inspected in multiple lines, you will need to check all your surveillance reports.</p>
	Abattoir Surveillance (150 sheep)	1 pt <i>valid for 1 yr</i>	<p>You must have had at least 150 sheep over two-years-of-age examined through abattoir monitoring in the past 12 months and hold a negative surveillance report.</p> <p>The sheep must have been on your property for at least two years before examination.</p> <p>As the sheep may have been inspected in multiple lines, you will need to check all your surveillance reports.</p>
FLOCK TESTING	Pooled Faecal Culture (350 sheep)	2 pts <i>valid for 1 yr</i>	Contact your veterinary practitioner and arrange for dung testing of a representative sample (maximum 350) of your adult sheep.
	Sheep Market Assurance Program (MAP) Testing	up to 4 pts <i>providing your flock remains in the MAP</i>	<p>Join the Sheep MAP by contacting your local approved SheepMAP veterinarian www.ojd.com.au</p> <p>You will be eligible for two points when you have completed your first <i>sample test</i>. You can get further points if you progress to a higher status, with further testing in two and five years.</p>
VACCINATION WITH GUDAIR®	Approved Vaccinates	up to 4 pts 1 pt	<p>You can get up to four additional points depending on the amount of vaccination you have undertaken.</p> <p>Vaccination is an effective means of reducing flock losses and will reduce the number of bacteria an animal passes onto pasture.</p> <p>When lambs are vaccinated at marking with</p>

			<p>Gudair[®], they are called <i>Approved Vaccinates</i> and must be tagged with a NLIS tag carrying a (V) symbol.</p> <p>Adult sheep in the Sheep Market Assurance Program (MAP) can be vaccinated with Gudair[®] at any age and are also recognised as <i>Approved Vaccinates</i>.</p> <p>Adult sheep can also be vaccinated at any age and be recognised as <i>Approved Vaccinates</i>, as long as a SheepMAP veterinarian certifies in writing that the sheep were vaccinated with Gudair[®] when there was a low risk of previous exposure to OJD.</p>
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ADDITIONAL ADVICE

For further information on OJD management options and the Sheep Health Statement, please visit www.ojd.com.au or contact your local department of agriculture.