

MEDIA RELEASE

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BJD Review – Evaluation of CattleMAP and suspension of testing begins

Animal Health Australia (AHA) has now commenced the evaluation of the Australian Johne's Disease Market Assurance Program for Cattle (CattleMAP) - a key step in the implementation of the recently released [BJD Framework](#).

During this evaluation period it has been agreed that the testing requirement for CattleMAP will be suspended until 1 November 2016.

"The review will take place over the coming months and involves consultation with a number of producers still in the CattleMAP, as well as some who have recently left. Identified producers will have the opportunity to state what they feel has worked well within the CattleMAP and what areas need improvement," said AHA's Executive Manager of Biosecurity Services Duncan Rowland.

"Although suspension of testing is in place, it's imperative that producers continue to maintain their biosecurity plans and undergo veterinary reviews during this evaluation process - robust biosecurity practices are vital in this new deregulated environment," said Mr Rowland.

The BJD Steering Committee will implement the recommendations identified, at the conclusion of the CattleMAP evaluation period.

Additional steps still to take place in the BJD Framework implementation process include:

- the deregulation and removal of zoning, which will occur as the state governments implement the new Framework
- the completion of tools and resources (such as biosecurity checklists, a risk profiling tool and cooperative biosecurity guidelines) to assist producers reduce the prevalence of production diseases and improve the management of these diseases
- the enhancement of the existing National Cattle Health Statement
- the hosting of two public forums, to meet with producers and address any questions they may have.

As with all the changes stemming from the implementation of the new national BJD Framework, AHA will continue to update and inform Australian producers throughout the reform process.

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BJD FRAMEWORK SUMMARY

The BJD Framework document: *A Fresh Approach to the Management of Johne's Disease in Cattle: Management Plan for Cattle Production Conditions* is available [here](#)

Background

JD in cattle is endemic in some cattle production areas of Australia but in other areas the disease is not known to exist (or exists at a low to very low level).

The need for a different approach

The review identified there was a groundswell of support for JD to be dealt with differently from the way in which it has been over the past 12 years. There was general support for JD to be addressed under a common biosecurity approach for endemic diseases, with less emphasis placed on an individual disease. It was not appropriate for the existing strategic plan to continue in its current state. Through an extensive consultative process a revised plan has been developed for implementation in early 2016. This has been a collaborative effort of industry and governments.

Participation

The plan has been prepared by the Australian cattle industries (Australian Dairy Farmers, Australian Live Exporters' Council, Australian Lot Feeders' Association, the Australian Registered Cattle Breeders' Association and Cattle Council of Australia) in conjunction with the Australian Veterinary Association, Meat & Livestock Australia, Dairy Australia and the Australian, State & Territory Governments after extensive consultation with Australian cattle producers and interested stakeholders.

Fundamental objectives

The objectives of the recast Management Strategy for JD in cattle are to:

- manage and reduce the impact of clinical Johne's disease
- provide tools to allow individual producers to manage the spread of *Mycobacterium paratuberculosis* infection in accordance with their business requirements.

The review process

In early 2015, at the request of the BJD Steering Committee¹ and the Animal Health Committee, AHA commenced the coordination of the BJD Review process. The review process allowed for all parties (including industry, government and community) to provide input into how Australia was going to manage BJD into the future. The process allowed for a wide range of views to be considered and broad consultation to take place.

¹ BJD Steering Committee: The Australian cattle industries (Australian Dairy Farmers, Australian Lot Feeders' Association, and Cattle Council of Australia) in conjunction with the Goat Industry Council of Australia, Meat & Livestock Australia, Dairy Australia and Animal Health Committee.
