

# Johne's Beef Assurance Score

The Johne's Beef Assurance Score (J-BAS) is a risk profiling tool for 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 other species on the property from which the cattle are sourced, rather than rely on the score alone.

Johne's Beef Assurance Score (J-BAS)				
<b>On-farm biosecurity plan implemented*</b>	<b>Biosecurity plan implemented for minimum of 5 years</b>	<b>Testing, plus veterinary advisor for plan</b>	Two successive negative Sample tests 2 years apart, and ongoing triennial Check Test	<b>8</b> <b>High assurance</b>
			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	<b>7</b> <b>Assurance</b>
		No history of JD on property or minimum 5 years since last clinical case confirmed on property		<b>6</b> <b>Managed disease risk</b>
	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		<b>4</b> <b>Progressing</b>	
	Biosecurity plan in place  Clinical case(s) removed		<b>2</b> <b>First steps</b>	
	Suspect, infected and unknown			<b>0</b> <b>Unmanaged risk</b>

\* All plans must be documented.

Having other JD-susceptible species (sheep, goats, alpacas) on the property does not affect the score for the cattle herd, but cases of JD in these species must be considered when deciding the score for the cattle herd.

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

### **Transitional arrangements for J-BAS finished on 30 June 2018**

- Herds from the previous CattleMAP and Free Zone (WA) transitioned to J-BAS 8 and the former Protected Zone, Beef Protected Area and Beef Only herds transitioned to Level 7 (if they implemented a vet oversighted on-farm biosecurity plan and implemented their first triennial Check Test by 30 June 2018.).
- Herds where a biosecurity plan was not implemented but had no clinical cases of JD for a minimum of five years, defaulted to J-BAS 6.
- Herds which did not qualify as J-BAS of 7 or 8 in the transitional period (Tas and Vic non-Beef Only) but had no previous infection with JD and had implemented a Biosecurity Plan were given a score of 4. Once these herds have maintained a Biosecurity Plan for at least 5 years (with no occurrence of JD), they can advance to score 6.
- Herds that were previously infected or suspected of being infected moved to the score appropriate to time since the last clinical case or 0 if no plan is in place.

### **Maintenance arrangements**

- Levels 7 and 8
  - Maintain property biosecurity plan with veterinary oversight (annual review)<sup>1</sup>
  - Triennial Check Test
  - Investigate and resolve all suspect cases
- Level 6
  - Maintain property biosecurity plan
  - Investigate and resolve all suspect cases
- Levels 2 and 4
  - Establish and maintain property biosecurity plan
  - If previous infection, then all high-risk animals identified and removed
  - Investigate and resolve all suspect cases

### **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.

### **How does a producer develop a Biosecurity Plan for J-BAS?**

Plan templates are available on the [Farm Biosecurity](#) and [AHA](#) websites and will also meet the biosecurity requirements for Livestock Production Assurance (LPA). For producers wanting to maintain or achieve J-BAS 7 or 8, their cattle veterinarian may suggest and assist with using [BIOCHECK®](#) for on-farm biosecurity planning purposes. The *National Farm Biosecurity Reference Manual - Grazing Livestock Production* provides a guide to use for the property biosecurity plan and is available at [www.farmbiosecurity.com.au](http://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au). It has specific livestock and animal health management sections which outline suggested practices to be included in a biosecurity plan.

All plans should include the *JD in Cattle Biosecurity Checklist* (available at: [www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/jd-cattle-tools/](http://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/jd-cattle-tools/)).

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<sup>1</sup> 'overseen' means the vet has discussed with the person completing the Plan the biosecurity risks associated with the property and ways of managing those risks. The vet is to sign as confirmation of having had this discussion.