

MEDIA RELEASE

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New approach to Johne's disease in cattle commences 1 July 2016

The new, national approach to Johne's disease (JD) in cattle will officially commence on 1 July 2016, with the removal of zoning occurring across Australia.

The new approach, endorsed by the cattle industry and state governments, is guided by the [BJD Framework](#) and focuses on managing on-farm biosecurity risk rather than controlling disease through regulation, said Animal Health Australia's (AHA) Executive Manager of Biosecurity Services, Duncan Rowland.

"This approach treats JD as just one of many diseases that producers must manage within their business. Supported by more flexible regulation, producers will be able to make informed decisions about the opportunities and risks associated with purchasing livestock," said Mr Rowland.

A number of changes will occur under the new Framework including:

- deregulation and removal of zoning: most state/territory jurisdictions are on-track to remove regulation by 1 July 2016
- ceasing of quarantining of properties as a control measure
- movement to a market-driven approach where producers undertake practices dependent on market requirements.

"To ensure Australian producers and interested stakeholders are informed and supported throughout this reform process, industry and governments are developing tools and resources to provide guidance.

"We've released a useful fact sheet, [New approach to Johne's disease in cattle](#), which clearly outlines what the approach means for the individual producer and also addresses some frequently asked questions," said Mr Rowland.

Additional steps that will take place over the next month include:

- provision of additional tools and resources
- enhancement of the existing National Cattle Health Declaration to reflect the new approach
- hosting of public forums, to address any questions producers may have
- continuous updates on the AHA [website](#).

AHA will continue to work with industry and government to ensure the Framework is implemented as smoothly and quickly as possible to enhance the biosecurity credentials of Australia's cattle industry.

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JD IN CATTLE INFORMATION SHEET

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

Johne's disease (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).

JD in cattle policy and direction is set by the peak industry councils representing the cattle production sectors, in conjunction with the Australian and state/territory governments.

Review process

In 2015, at the request of the BJD Steering Committee and the Animal Health Committee, AHA commenced coordination of the BJD Review process. The process allowed for all parties (including industry, government and community) to provide input into how Australia was going to manage JD in cattle into the future.

Review participation

The BJD Framework was 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.

Review outcome

The review identified a groundswell of support for JD in cattle to be dealt with differently from the way in which it has been over the past 12 years. There was general support for JD in cattle to be addressed under a common biosecurity approach for endemic diseases, with less emphasis placed on an individual disease. Through an extensive consultative process a revised plan was developed for implementation in early 2016 - now known as the BJD Framework.

About Animal Health Australia

Animal Health Australia works in partnership with our Members and other stakeholders to keep Australia free of new and emerging diseases and to improve animal health, enhance market access and foster resilience and integrity of the Australian animal health system.

