

MANAGING AN INFECTED BEEF HERD

JD is difficult, but not impossible, to eradicate from infected properties.



- You may consider an initial herd test in order to determine high-risk groups and find out how far the disease may have spread in the herd, and to discover other infected cattle.
 - Use targeted and/or pooled sampling to screen for high or low risk groups.
 - Identify, segregate and remove high-risk animals, including:
 - » recent progeny of visibly infected cows
 - » siblings of visibly infected cattle
 - » companion animals of the same age and grazed together with visibly infected cattle
 - » animals that, as calves, were in contact with visibly infected cattle or their effluent
- Isolate and cull promptly any animals showing visible signs of JD. Such animals should not enter the food chain.
 - Prioritise high-risk animals for culling.
 - Fence off low areas or creeks where water may be contaminated or where the bacteria are likely to survive for longer periods.
 - Reduce pasture contamination by:
 - » spelling potentially infected paddocks from grazing for extended periods. (The current recommendation for decontamination as part of an eradication plan is 12 months)
 - » rotating paddock use with cropping
 - » re-sowing pasture
 - » grazing with adult sheep where the risk of OJD is low
 - » grazing with non-breeding cattle and selling them straight to slaughter before they reach two years of age
 - Avoid feeding on ground – substitute with troughs or automatic feeders.

In some cases, where the disease is not well established at the time of detection, an aggressive program of culling high-risk animals can be sufficient to eradicate the disease.

Always ask for a National Cattle Health Declaration when buying or agisting cattle.