

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)				
On-farm biosecurity plan implemented*	Biosecurity plan implemented for minimum of 5 years	Testing, plus veterinary advisor for plan	Two successive negative Sample tests 2 years apart, and ongoing triennial Check Test.	8 High assurance
			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.	7 Assurance
		No history of JD on property or minimum 5 years since last clinical case confirmed on property.		6 Managed disease risk
	If previous clinical case(s) of JD, minimum of 2 years of biosecurity plan implemented and since last clinical case confirmed on property, plus all high-risk animals identified and removed. If no previous clinical cases, biosecurity plan in place for 2 years.		4 Progressing	
	Biosecurity plan in place Clinical case(s) removed		2 First steps	
	Suspect, infected and unknown			0 Unmanaged risk

* 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.

All transitional arrangements for J-BAS finished nationally on 30 June 2021 after five years since its introduction.

Maintenance arrangements

- Score 7 and 8
 - Maintain property biosecurity plan with veterinary oversight¹ and review annually
 - Triennial Check Test (should be completed no later than two months after the period since the last test period expires)
 - Investigate and resolve all suspect cases
- Score 6
 - Maintain property biosecurity plan
 - Investigate and resolve all suspect cases
- Score 2 and 4
 - Establish and maintain property biosecurity plan
 - If previous clinical case(s), then all high-risk animals identified and removed
 - Investigate and resolve all suspect cases

Events that affect Assurance level

- Score 7 & 8 where testing confirms infection in an animal with no clinical signs:
 - Drop to Score 6, provided other elements of Score 6 are met (including no clinical disease)
 - Are eligible to retest 2 years after the last high-risk animal(s) removed to progress to Score 7.

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

Plan templates are available on the [Farm Biosecurity](#) and [Integrity Systems Company](#) 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 them 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. 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: <https://animalhealthaustralia.com.au/johnes-disease-in-cattle/>).

¹ '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.