

AVOIDING JD IN BEEF HERDS

What can you do to protect your beef herd against JD? JD infection is uncommon in the national beef herd compared with the dairy sector and there are some basic steps you can take to protect your herd.

- Set up a biosecurity plan for your property that identifies the most likely sources of disease risk, for example dairy cross animals, and develop strategies to minimise the risk of disease coming onto your property.
 - Since the most likely source of infection for beef herds are infected cattle brought onto a property, it is strongly recommended that you only buy, sell or agist high assurance cattle such as those with a Johne's Beef Assurance Score of 6 or higher. Cattle should be accompanied by a National Cattle Health Declaration.
 - Avoid the introduction (including agistment) of dairy-cross or dairy cattle unless they have been Check Tested or come from herds with a Dairy Assurance Score of 7 or higher.
 - It is strongly recommended to seek additional assurance through a National Cattle Health Declaration from the vendor.
 - Only use livestock agents who understand and comply with the National Cattle Health Declaration.
 - Pay particular attention to the selection of embryo recipients to ensure these animals have been sourced from high-assurance herds such as Johne's Beef Assurance Score or Dairy Assurance Score 7 or higher.
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- Avoid agisting dairy or dairy-cross cattle. If planning to agist, ensure these cattle are young and leave the property before they are 2 years of age (there is a high risk of shedding from infected animals beyond this age). Although dairy calves younger than 2 years of age are considered a low risk for shedding disease, this is still possible. Consider whether this is compatible with your own business model or biosecurity plan.
 - Assure your herd's resistance to disease through good nutrition and parasite control. Pay particular attention to animals that are failing to grow or fatten.
 - Quarantine and investigate any suspect animals and report anything suspicious to your local vet for investigation.