

New OJD Risk Based Trading System

From July 1st, 2004 there will be a risk based trading system implemented throughout Australia which will radically change the rules surrounding the sale of sheep from an OJD perspective. The changes have been implemented because significant numbers of sheep producers wanted to extend trading options without risking the spread of disease while having fewer regulations.

This nationally agreed scheme uses a scoring system where assurance based credits (ABC's) are allocated to the flock owner based on a combination of location (area prevalence) plus OJD activity including testing results, vaccination and risk management assessments.

The work undertaken so far with the National Johne's Disease Program has indicated that the total eradication of OJD is not possible with current practices and technology. However, it is considered desirable that the disease continues to be managed in order to achieve the following:

- ❑ Areas currently with little or no OJD remain unaffected.
- ❑ Areas with some OJD contain the disease at or below current levels.
- ❑ Areas with endemic OJD manage to reduce both the number of farms infected and the prevalence of disease on infected farms.

The credits that can be allocated to an individual farm range from 0 (highest risk) to 10 (lowest risk). Each credit represents a four-fold difference in the risk of the flock having OJD.

The individual farm score comprises a summation of 4 categories. These are:

Category A: Flock of Origin – Location and Description. This is a ***prevalence score*** which is determined by where the farm is located.

Category B: Testing. This is a ***testing score*** which is determined by the level of OJD testing that has occurred in the flock.

Category C: Vaccination. This is a ***vaccination score*** which is determined by the amount and timing of vaccination that has occurred in the flock.

Category D: Consignment Sheep – Risk Assessment. This is a ***risk assessment*** used when sheep are being offered for sale from an infected flock and which are certified as low-risk by an approved veterinarian on the basis of:

- ❑ Risk assessment and pooled faecal culture testing and

- An approved Property Disease Management Plan that includes profiling and strategic culling being implemented in the flock.

The summation of the credits in Categories A,B,C and D will comprise the total OJD credits allocated to that property.

Category A: Flock of Origin-Location and Description.

There are 4 prevalence areas that have been determined. Prevalence is based on information gathered from abattoir monitoring and on-farm testing undertaken throughout Australia. Table 1 shows the criteria for determining each prevalence area and the credits that each will attract for an untested property in that area.

These prevalence areas will be reviewed annually.

In South Australia, the mainland and the Dudley Peninsular of Kangaroo Island will be regarded as a Very Low Prevalence Area. The prevalence area to be allocated to the remainder of Kangaroo Island is still being finalised.

Table 1
Criteria and Credits Allocated to OJD Prevalence Areas

Prevalence Area	Maximum Allowable Diseased Properties	Credit Score for Untested Flocks in the Area.
Very Low Prevalence Area	0.5 %	5
Low Prevalence Area	8 %	3
Medium Prevalence Area	32 %	1
High Prevalence Area	Over 32 %	0
Suspect or Infected Property in Any Area		0

Category B: Testing; Category C: Vaccinating and Category D: Consignment Sheep – Risk Assessment

The prevalence score is determined purely on the location of the sheep property within Australia. The other 3 categories for gaining OJD credits are by testing, or vaccinating or risk assessment and all are determined by the decisions and actions of the flock owner.

Table 2 summarises the credits that will be assigned to flocks that undertake these activities.

Table 2
Credits Allocated for Various Vaccination, Testing and Risk Assessment
Activities in a Sheep Flock

OJD Assurance Activity or Category		Credits
Category B: Testing		
The flock is:	In the MAP scheme and has had 3 sample tests	4
	In the MAP scheme and has had 2 sample tests	3
	In the MAP scheme and has had 1 sample test	2
	Not in the MAP scheme but has had a negative PFC 350 test within the past 12 months	2
	Not in the MAP scheme but is eligible for Abattoir 700 status	2
	Not in the MAP scheme but is eligible for Abattoir 200 status	1
	A tested low prevalence infected flock	1
Category C: Vaccination		
The flock is:	A second generation approved vaccinate flock	4
The sheep are:	Approved vaccinates born into an approved vaccinate flock	3
	Approved vaccinates from an approved vaccinate flock	2
	Approved vaccinates	1
Category D: Consignment Sheep – Risk Assessment		
The sheep are:	Sourced from an infected flock but are certified as low-risk by a MAP approved veterinarian	1

Some terms in Table 2 will require some explanation. The main ones are:

- ❑ Sample Testing in the MAP scheme – this refers to the number of tests to MAP standard that have been undertaken on that flock.
- ❑ PFC 350 test – this refers to the Pooled Faecal Culture Test undertaken on 350 eligible animals in 7 pools of 50 sheep.
- ❑ Abattoir 700 test – refers to at least 700 animals older than 2 years that have been assessed in the abattoir for the presence of OJD by a trained inspector.
- ❑ Abattoir 200 test – as above but only 200 animals involved instead of 700.
- ❑ Approved Vaccinates – sheep that are vaccinated at 4 to 16 weeks of age or sheep vaccinated after 16 weeks of age where, in the opinion of a MAP approved veterinarian, vaccination would have occurred prior to exposure to OJD infection.
- ❑ Approved vaccinate flock – a flock comprised entirely of approved vaccinates.

The total OJD credit score for the property is the sum of the 4 categories described above. Each category can only contribute once for a flock or sheep score.

From 1st July, 2004, an OJD Animal Health Statement (AHS) incorporating the above information will need to accompany any sheep sold. This will be mandatory in South Australia and will be in addition to the National Vendor Declaration currently in use with all sheep transactions. AHS's are not needed for sheep placarded for slaughter only.

For sheep being sold in South Australia from the present Control Zone to the Protected Zone and for which vendors have had to complete an OJD attachment, the OJD Animal Health Statement will replace this attachment. However, please note that a National Vendor Declaration will still need to be completed.

In the first quarter of 2004, an extension campaign will be conducted in order to inform sheep producers of these changes and other matters relating to OJD.

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