

South Australia Endemic Sheep Disease Management Program – Johne's Disease in Sheep

Changes to the Ovine Johne's Disease Management Program in South Australia came into effect from 1 July 2019.

Producers should note:

- Restrictions on movement of sheep from interstate were lifted on 1 July 2019. The changes are aimed at assisting producers to restock once dry conditions ease, making sheep trade between states easier.
- Completed National Vendor Declarations (NVDs) and National Sheep Health Declarations (NSHDs) will still remain mandatory in SA
- This change has been recommended by the South Australian Sheep Industry Fund Board in close liaison with Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA) and Livestock SA.
- Removing interstate movement restrictions will see stronger alignment in SA to the national management arrangements for the disease through the national Ovine Johne's Disease (OJD) program.
- While interstate sheep movement restrictions associated with Johne's Disease have been lifted, to reduce the disease impact it is recommended that all animals entering SA should be vaccinated for Johne's Disease, either before entry or upon entry to SA.
- Johne's disease in sheep is a notifiable disease and must be reported to PIRSA. All producers, livestock agents, consultants and veterinarians must report suspicion of disease.
- Declaration of Johne's Disease risk is advised on health declarations. False declarations may lead to regulatory action.
- Good farm biosecurity should always play a central role in any purchasing decision. 'Buyer beware' means producers need to check the status of animals BEFORE purchasing – check the NVD and NSHD.

Important information

Vaccination

- It is strongly recommended that all sheep entering SA are vaccinated against Johne's Disease, either before entry or upon entry to SA.
- There is evidence that vaccinating sheep older than 12 weeks of age will provide some protection from OJD.
- As a precaution, farmers should vaccinate any stock they purchase unless they are from an area with a low OJD risk prevalence or have been demonstrated to have a low disease status.

Voluntary Abattoir Surveillance

- Producers can still request sheep to be inspected for Johne's Disease at Thomas Foods International Lobethal by contacting PIRSA to request inspection. For details visit: pir.sa.gov.au/biosecurity/animal_health/sheep/health/ojd/voluntary_abattoir_surveillance

Subsidised Clinical Disease Investigations

- Producers can access subsidised disease investigations for flock problems where presentation is consistent with Johne's Disease (e.g. wasting, increased mortality) via private veterinarians or PIRSA staff.

On-farm Biosecurity

- PIRSA's One Biosecurity program provides a valuable tool to assist producers with managing Johne's disease, and others, into the future. For more information or to sign up to One Biosecurity, visit onebiosecurity.pir.sa.gov.au

More information

Visit pir.sa.gov.au/ojd-management-program

Speak with your local PIRSA Animal Health Officer: pir.sa.gov.au/biosecurity/animal_health/contact_us

Or contact your industry representative:

Livestock SA

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