

## **NATIONAL OVINE JOHNE'S DISEASE (OJD) MANAGEMENT PLAN (2013-2018)**

The revised National OJD Management Plan came into effect on July, 1 2013.

The "ABC" points-based system ended after five years and there will be no nationally recognised zones or areas in relation to OJD prevalence.

The new national management plan allows producers to manage their own on-farm OJD risk. A key component of the devised plan is the use of the new National Sheep Health Statement (SHS) as a means of managing your OJD risk when buying or selling stock. The document should be used as a risk management tool to help make sound trading decisions. The SHS will offer a level of assurance that the sheep you are purchasing are appropriate for your needs.

The SHS consists of a series of Yes/No questions. Once signed it is a legal declaration, with the answers provided by the vendor being signed as true and correct.

Section C of the SHS makes reference to the OJD status of consigned sheep and the type of OJD testing carried out. For more information or to obtain a SHS, visit <http://www.ojd.com.au/trading-sheep/guide-to-the-shs/>.

The new plan also encourages the use of vaccination, OJD testing and the implementation of a Regional Biosecurity Plan, as means of managing or preventing the disease. However these are not mandatory but may be a requirement for interstate trade.

### **Trade**

Under NLIS law, sheep traded within Victoria must;

- be tagged with a registered NLIS tag, whether visually readable or electronic and must have the Property Identification Code (PIC) printed on them and;
- sheep of any age which are to be sent directly to slaughter must be tagged with an approved NLIS tag.

If sheep are vaccinated with Gudair® they must be tagged with a V-tag.

When dispatching sheep of any age to a saleyard, abattoir or another property (with a different PIC), they must be accompanied by a National Vendor Declaration (NVD).

Use of a SHS is voluntary when trading into or within Victoria however it may be required for interstate trade.

## ***Trading into SA, NW Victoria and other RBAs***

**Regional Biosecurity Areas having approved plans exist in western NSW, north-west Victoria, and all of South Australia and Queensland. Sheep traded into these areas must:**

- be accompanied by a completed National Sheep Health Statement as well as a National Vendor Declaration,
- be tested negative for OJD within the past 2 years either by PFC350, or abattoir surveillance (Ab500) or;
- be from a SheepMAP accredited flock or;
- be from a flock from within an approved Regional Biosecurity Area,

Terminal lambs being traded into SA must be tagged with a 'T' tag and will be unaffected by these changes when being consigned direct to abattoir.

Infected or suspected to be infected sheep cannot be sold into South Australia.

Victorian producers will still have access to approved SA saleyards, shows and breeding centres, however conditions apply. Victorian sheep attending South Australian shows or breeding centres must be housed, fed and watered separately from all other livestock at the venue. All sheep must return directly to their Victorian property.

For more information on South Australian trade requirements, contact Dr Peter Nosworthy, PIRSA on (08) 8762 9140. For OJD state coordinator details visit <http://www.ojd.com.au/managing-ojd/state-coordinators/>.

### **OJD Testing**

#### ***PFC350***

Pooled Faecal Culture of 350 representative sheep, over two years of age in pools of up to 50 sheep (seven samples from pools of 50 sheep). In smaller flocks, testing all sheep over the age of two years will suffice.

To arrange a PFC350, contact a MAP approved veterinarian, who can provide a quote.

Details can be found on the [Animal Health Australia](http://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au) website (www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au)

#### ***Abattoir500***

Abattoir surveillance of at least 500 sheep in one or more lots, over two years of age and from the same property. The sheep must have been on the property for at least two years.

Random inspections are currently carried out at the following abattoirs;

- Midfields, Warrnambool
- Herds, Geelong
- Ararat

With five working days' notice, inspections can be pre-arranged in these Victorian abattoirs. Contact: Rob Suter, Victorian Department of Primary Industries, (03) 9217 4109.

## **Blood testing**

A blood test can be used to detect antibodies to OJD bacteria in the blood and results received quicker than PFC350, however this test is not routinely used.

Producers should note;

- This method requires more sheep to be tested, due to the sensitivity of the test (more than PFC). This makes the test less reliable when testing individual animals.
- Vaccination causes the production of antibodies in the blood.
- The antibodies produced from vaccinated sheep may be detected during an OJD blood test, causing sheep to falsely test positive for OJD.
- Serology is a common test for export markets, especially South East Asia and China.
- State Chief Veterinary Officer must approve blood testing before use.
- Serology testing will not directly assist with trade into South Australia.

## **Vaccination**

Vaccination with Gudair® is a valuable tool for managing the impact of OJD on your flock; however it must be accompanied by testing, to assist with trading to some regions, e.g. SA.

Vaccination will improve the level of assurance of your sheep as it may reduce the level of bacteria being shed. Testing by Abattoir500 or PFC350 may be required for trade into other regions.

Vaccinating your whole flock against OJD will;

- significantly decrease the number of clinically affected animals over time,
- decrease the number of mortalities associated with OJD (up to 90%),
- decrease the prevalence of sheep shedding the bacteria.

It is recommended that lambs are vaccinated between 4 and 16 weeks of age as well as vaccinating any introduced sheep, particularly if your flock is infected or at risk of infection.

See the [Zoetis](http://www.zoetis.com.au) website (www.zoetis.com.au) for more information on [Gudair®](#).

When moving sheep it is important to remember;

- trading or moving sheep always carries a biosecurity risk,
- aim to buy sheep with appropriate levels of assurance,
- always use a Sheep Health Statement or obtain health information about the sheep,
- producers with Infected or Suspected of being infected flocks should only introduce vaccinated and preferably tested negative sheep,
- producers with tested negative flocks should buy from SheepMAP flocks

For more information on the National OJD Management Plan see the OJD website [www.ojd.com.au](http://www.ojd.com.au) or contact the Victorian Farmers Federation Livestock Group on 1300 882 833.