



NSW DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

AGRICULTURE, BIOSECURITY, & MINE SAFETY

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Title:	OJD Abattoir Monitoring – Reporting and Follow up of Positive Traces	Version:	1
Policy no (including category).	O-054	Effective date:	22/05/2009
Authorised by:	Acting Executive Director, Agriculture, Biosecurity & Mine Safety	Authorisation date:	22/05/2009

1. OVERVIEW

Ovine Johne's disease (OJD) is a notifiable disease under the *Stock Diseases Act 1923*.

Parts of NSW have been declared as protected areas for OJD. These areas are collectively known as the Exclusion Areas. The balance of the state has been declared a control area and is known as the Management Area. The Management Area includes areas of low, medium and high prevalence.

This policy applies to positive OJD abattoir monitoring reports from:

- direct consignments from the Management Area,
- direct consignments from the Exclusion Area,
- indirect consignments sourced exclusively from the low prevalence area.

2. BACKGROUND

General information on the national abattoir monitoring program for ovine JD may be found in the AB&MS Information document: [National Abattoir Monitoring Program for Ovine Johne's Disease](#).

Abattoir surveillance is funded by WoolProducers Australia and the Sheepmeat Council of Australia.

Surveillance is undertaken at a number of abattoirs selected to ensure broad coverage, particularly of the new low prevalence area, to gather representative data from across geographic regions.

A proportion of sheep from lines slaughtered at the selected abattoirs are inspected by AQIS meat inspectors. Where OJD-like lesions are detected, a proportion of the lesions are sampled and the samples are sent to a laboratory for further examination.

The surveillance results are provided to the National Abattoir Surveillance Coordinator. The National Coordinator validates and collates the information, then reports it to the jurisdiction from which the sheep were sourced. Results on indirect lines from high risk saleyards, and on lines from the medium and high prevalence areas, will not be reported.

The report from the National Coordinator provides information that will assist the owner to relate the report to a specific consignment of sheep. Information may include the PIC, the NVD serial number, slaughter date, abattoir, the number of sheep in the line that were slaughtered, number inspected, number with lesions, the number sampled and the number positive on laboratory testing.

Under the '*National Guidelines for the Implementation of Assurance-based OJD Management in Sheep*', a flock/property may be described as being known or suspected of being infected with OJD. A positive result from abattoir surveillance is one reason to suspect that a flock/property is infected. This suspicion remains unless it can be resolved through a risk assessment and/or field investigation by a District Veterinarian (DV) or an approved SheepMAP veterinarian.

Flocks/properties that are known or suspected of being infected with OJD are not eligible for assurance-based credit (ABC) points under category A of the Sheep Health Statement.

Note: without sufficient history and a comprehensive field investigation, a DV or an approved SheepMAP veterinarian may not be able to form an opinion regarding the likely presence or absence of OJD infection in a flock or on a property.

3. SCOPE

This policy applies to all NSW DPI staff and staff working under the direction of NSW DPI, as indicated in the text of the document.

When approved and issued as a Written Instrument by the State Council of the Livestock Health and Pest Authorities (LHPA), the policy also applies to relevant LHPA staff as indicated in the text of the document.

4. POLICY

4.1. Reporting of positive abattoir results

The NSW Sheep Health Monitoring Database Coordinator will send positive reports relating to:

- direct lines from all prevalence areas, and
- indirect lines from low risk saleyards sourced exclusively from the low prevalence area, to the relevant District Veterinarian (DV).

The DV will notify the owner/person in charge of the sheep, in writing, of the positive result.

The Database Coordinator will also copy positive reports relating to:

- direct lines from the low prevalence areas, and
- indirect lines sourced exclusively from the low prevalence area*,

to the Regional Veterinary Officer (RVO) and the OJD Coordinator.

*There is no requirement to notify all vendors contributing to an indirect line if one of the contributing flocks is known or suspected to be infected, or has been recorded as contributing more than once to an infected indirect line.

4.2. Advice on completing Category A of the Sheep Health Statement

The DV will notify the owner/person in charge of the sheep of the implications of a positive OJD abattoir surveillance report for them when completing Category A of the Sheep Health Statement using the appropriate template:

- [Abattoir Detection in a Direct Line from the High or Medium Prevalence Area](#)
- [Abattoir Detection in a Direct Line from the Low Prevalence Area](#)
- [Abattoir Detection in an Indirect \(Boxed\) Line from the Low Prevalence Area](#)

4.3. Risk assessment following a positive OJD abattoir surveillance report.

The DV will offer to undertake an investigation to:

- confirm that the trace is valid, and if it is,
- confirm the presence or likely absence of OJD.

Guidance is available in [Circular 2004/071 OJD Risk Assessment, Field Investigation and Diagnosis Information](#).

In the low prevalence area the DV will complete the [risk assessment form](#) and return the completed form to the Database Coordinator, with a copy to the RVO and the OJD coordinator.

The Database Coordinator will maintain a spreadsheet summarising the results of risk assessments in the low prevalence area as reported by the DV.

4.4. Advice on the management of OJD following a positive OJD abattoir surveillance report

The DV will provide advisory material ([NSW DPI Prime fact 667 OJD- Disease risk management](#)) on appropriate risk management programs, to help producers minimise the impact of potential OJD infection within their flock and the risk to neighbouring or other flocks in the region.

DVs in medium prevalence areas should encourage owners to undertake an appropriate risk management program.

DVs in low prevalence areas should strongly encourage owners to develop a Property Disease Management Plan that is signed by the person in charge of the sheep. See current information in [NSW DPI Circular AI 2004/069 OJD – Property Disease Management Program \(PDMP\) Information](#)

4.5. Responsibility of the Regional Veterinary Officer (RVO)

The RVO will:

- confirm that reports from the low prevalence area have been acted on appropriately, especially where the board is without a DV,
- assess the impact of the report for area status, and
- assist DVs to develop and implement property, district and regional OJD biosecurity plans.

5. PROCEDURES

Nil

6. DEFINITIONS

Abattoir Monitoring: The inspection of a slaughter line of sheep in an abattoir, by an approved inspector, for intestinal lesions consistent with OJD.

Boxed/Indirect consignment: A slaughter line at the abattoir made up by combining smaller saleyard lines. They have 2 or more contributing vendors. Boxed consignments are usually boxed at saleyards, but can sometimes be boxed at the abattoir or during transport.

CVO: Chief Veterinary Officer of NSW.

CVO Approved Property Disease Management Plan: A PDMP that is submitted to the OJD technical panel and approved by the CVO.

Direct consignment: A slaughter line of sheep at the abattoir that has only 1 contributing vendor.

DPI: Department of Primary Industries.

DV: District Veterinarian.

EA: Exclusion Area. This is a protected area for OJD that is proclaimed by the Minister for Primary Industries at the request of producers. [See map](#)

Infected: A flock/property is considered to be infected where

- infection by the sheep strain of *M. Paratuberculosis* has been identified, and there is evidence of, or likely potential for transmission of infection within the flock;

Or

- infection by the cattle strain of *M. Paratuberculosis* has been identified, and there is evidence of, or likely potential for transmission of infection within the flock;

and the flock has not met the requirements for the resolution of infection.

Infected Flock: A flock is regarded as infected with Johne's disease when:

- one or more infected animals have been found, and
- there is evidence of, or likely potential for, transmission of infection to other sheep.

Line: A group of sheep identified as a single entity in the inspection database and killed as a contiguous group at the abattoir.

LHPA: Livestock Health and Pest Authorities

Lot: A group of sheep identified by a single lot number by the abattoir and usually covered by a single purchase order. One lot may be killed as one or more lines.

Management area: The area of the state that lies outside the proclaimed exclusion areas for OJD. [See map](#)

OJD biosecurity plan: a management plan, documented in writing, to limit the spread of OJD at a property, district or regional level.

OJD Technical Panel: A panel of veterinary practitioners, convened by the Policy Officer Animal Biosecurity (OJD coordinator), to give advice to the CVO, on submissions for the resolution of suspicion of infection with OJD in individual flocks/properties.

Positive Trace from Abattoir Monitoring: The notification, following confirmation by an approved laboratory that the lesion found by the inspector during abattoir monitoring is histologically positive for OJD.

Split Line: A line that comprises only part of a lot (i.e. the lot is killed in multiple lines at different times and/or days).

RVO: Regional Veterinary Officer formally known as Senior Regional Animal Health Manager or Regional Animal Health Leader.

Suspected: An owner or manager should suspect a flock is infected with OJD if the owner has reasonable grounds to believe that it has been exposed to OJD infection or that OJD may exist in the flock. These grounds include:

- detection of infection by abattoir surveillance; or
- trace back or trace forward contact with an infected flock; or
- contact with OJD contaminated land or facilities
- reactors in the flock to a Johne's Disease test
- the flock neighbours an infected flock
- the flock has introduced sheep with an ABC Score of 0
- clinical signs of OJD
- advice from the Chief Veterinary Officer based on a risk assessment that considers the above factors

And the flock has not met the requirements for the resolution of suspicion.

Unsplit Line: A line that comprises the entire lot (i.e. the entire lot is killed in a single line at one time).

Vendor: The owner or manager of a property who contributes sheep for sale.

7. RELATED LEGISLATION

- Stock Diseases Act 1923 Section 14 (4) [Order for course of action NSW OJD Management Area](#)
- Stock Diseases Act 1923 [Proclamation No.566-OJD](#)
- Stock Diseases Act 1923 [Notification No.1811-OJD](#)

8. RELATED POLICIES

Nil

9. RELATED DELEGATIONS

Nil

10. RELATED DOCUMENTS

- [NSW DPI Primefact 661 Ovine Johne's Disease \(OJD\)](#)
- [NSW DPI Primefact 664 The key to understanding OJD risk when trading sheep](#)
- [NSW DPI Primefact 668 OJD - knowing or suspecting infection](#)
- [NSW DPI Primefact 667 OJD - Disease risk management](#)
- Information BC&MS 2007/008 [National Abattoir Monitoring Program for Ovine Johne's disease.](#)
- Circular [AI 2004/069 OJD – Property Disease Management Program \(PDMP\) Information](#)
- Circular [2004/071 OJD Risk Assessment, Field Investigation and Diagnosis Information](#)
- OJD form - [Property assessment details for an OJD positive line](#)
- OJD Letter Template- [Abattoir Detection in a Direct Line from the High or Medium Prevalence Area](#)
- OJD Letter Template- [Abattoir Detection in a Direct Line from the Low Prevalence Area](#)
- OJD Letter Template- [Abattoir Detection in an Indirect \(Boxed\) Line from the Low Prevalence Area](#)

11. REVISION HISTORY

First issued	Date
Version 1	22 May 2009

12. DATE OF NEXT REVIEW

As required

13. CONTACT OFFICER

Policy Officer Animal Biosecurity (OJD Coordinator), tel: (02) 63913351

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The attached document is a **WRITTEN INSTRUMENT** issued with the concurrence of the Director-General of NSW Department of Primary Industries under Clause 8.3 of Memorandum of understanding between the Director-General of NSW Primary Industries and Livestock Health and Pest Authorities State Management Council.

[APPROVED]

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for R F SHELDRAKE
DIRECTOR-GENERAL
NSW DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY
INDUSTRIES
Date: 22.05.2009

S ORR
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
STATE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
LIVESTOCK HEALTH AND PEST AUTHORITIES
Date: 14.05.2009