

OPERATION OF THE OVINE JOHNE'S DISEASE TECHNICAL PANEL

NUMBER PRO 2010/07

VERSION 1

AUTHORISED BY Principal Director Biosecurity

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ISSUED BY Primary Industries, Biosecurity

REVISION HISTORY

VERSION	DATE	AMENDMENTS
		SECTION DETAILS
1	13/05/2010	New Procedure

NEXT REVIEW DATE: 01/08/2012

Purpose

The purpose of this procedure is to set out the operation of the Ovine Johne's Disease (OJD) Technical Panel.

Scope

This policy applies to all staff of Industry & Investment NSW.

When signed as a Written Instrument it applies to staff of Livestock Health and Pest Authorities (LHPA) in their role as Stock Inspectors enforcing the Stock Diseases Act 1923, Stock (Chemical Residues) Act 1975 and Animal Diseases (Emergency Outbreaks) Act 1991.

Warnings

Users are reminded of the need to follow safe work practice when applying any techniques described in this publication. This includes identifying, assessing and managing any occupational health and safety risks.

Safe Work Method Statements that refer to activities included in this procedure must be used in assessing and managing risks.

Note: The consideration that a particular property/ flock has a risk of OJD infection that is equivalent to that of other flocks in the OJD Prevalence Area will be the opinion of the Chief Veterinary Officer based on the evidence to hand. It will not guarantee absence of infection.

PROCEDURE

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1. OJD TECHNICAL PANEL

The OJD technical panel was formed at the request of the CVO to give advice, or make recommendation, to the CVO on any technical matter pertaining to OJD.

From 1 July 2004 OJD has been managed nationally by a deregulated approach. Nationally accepted standards and practices are documented in the national '[Guidelines for the Implementation of Assurance-based OJD Management in Sheep](#)'. These national guidelines and the related NSW program are less prescriptive than in the past. This allows for more flexibility but introduces a greater risk of inconsistency. The OJD technical panel provides a mechanism to assess technical matters relating to the interpretation of these guidelines and in particular to provide this advice to the Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO).

Under the 'Guidelines for the Implementation of Assurance-based OJD Management in Sheep', flocks/properties that are suspected or known to be infected with OJD may seek resolution of this infection or suspicion of infection through:

- resolving the suspicion to the satisfaction of the CVO (suspect properties only),
- a program of vaccination and testing,
- completing a CVO approved destocking/decontamination program.

The OJD technical panel provides a mechanism by which these activities can be planned, undertaken and formally endorsed by the CVO in accordance with the national Guidelines.

2. FUNCTIONS

The OJD panel is a panel of veterinarians with experience and/or technical expertise in the area of disease management in general, and OJD management in particular.

When requested by the CVO, the panel will give advice or make a recommendation on any technical matter pertaining to OJD, including:

- resolution of suspicion,
- resolution of infection,
- certification of approved vaccinates,
- certification of low-risk sheep,
- the sheep Market Assurance Program,
- interpretation of the National Guidelines,
- interpretation of NSW policy and procedures.

The panel may also provide technical advice directly to field staff and private practitioners. The panel will notify the CVO of any such advice.

3. MEMBERSHIP OF THE PANEL

The panel members will be appointed by the CVO.

The panel will include:

- the NSW OJD coordinator,
- two District Veterinarians (DV), one of whom should be located in a high prevalence area.

The District Veterinarians will only be appointed:

- after consultation between the CVO and the CEO of the LHPA State Management Council to identify suitable nominees with appropriate technical expertise, and
- following advice from State Management Council that the proposed appointment is supported by the General Manager of the Authority in which they work.

In addition the CVO may appoint any other Industry & Investment NSW (I & I NSW) veterinarian with relevant experience in OJD.

The Policy Officer Animal Biosecurity (OJD Coordinator) will act as the executive officer of the panel. The executive officer will:

- answer enquires about submissions,
- provide advice on the preparation of submissions,
- arrange panel meetings,
- circulate submissions to panel members,
- advise the CVO (or their delegate) of panel submissions and recommendations,
- document panel discussions and decisions, manage panel correspondence.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES

4.1 CVO

The CVO will:

- appoint the members of the OJD Technical Panel,
- appoint a temporary member to the panel to replace a member who has taken leave of absence,
- note, endorse or reject recommendations of the panel.

The CVO may delegate any of these functions to an I&I NSW biosecurity director or manager.

4.2 NSW OJD Coordinator

The NSW OJD Coordinator will:

- assist DVs/Western Division Veterinary Officers (VOs) to prepare submissions to the panel relating to OJD Risk Management Plans, using the template '[Recommendation to OJD Technical Panel](#)',
- assess proposed OJD Risk Management Plans and request additional information from the DV/VO if necessary,
- relay requests/recommendations to the panel members by fax or email,
- arrange the meetings of the Panel (may be by teleconference) and prepare the agenda,
- document the Panel's advice or recommendation, and relay their advice or recommendation to the CVO (or their delegate) for information or to seek endorsement,
- relay recommendations of the Panel and/or the responses of the CVO (or their delegate) to the submitter,
- notify the CVO (or their delegate) of any additional information that comes to light that is relevant to the OJD Risk Management Plan, or any known proposed modification to the plan,
- on receipt of notification of the satisfactory completion of an OJD Risk Management Plan, notify the DV/VO, using the template '[Acknowledgement of completion of a CVO approved OJD Risk Management Plan](#)', that the owners may be advised that their flock/property is no

longer considered to be at higher risk of being infected with OJD than other flocks in the OJD Prevalence Area.

4.3 Panel Members

The Panel members will:

- advise other members of the Panel of any potential conflicts of interest,
- give advice to DVs/VOs or practitioners about OJD management, including general guidelines and likely outcomes, that is based on the current guidelines endorsed under the OJD National Management Plan.

4.4 DV or Western Division VO

The DV/VO will:

- submit requests for Panel technical advice in writing to the OJD Coordinator using the Template '[Recommendation to OJD Technical Panel](#)',
- accompany all submissions with a written assessment that documents the expected risk reduction of the treatments applied in the proposed Plan using the Biosecurity template: '[Property Risk Assessment](#)'.
- liaise with the affected producer and/or the producer's private practitioner (including farm visits where necessary), to provide any additional information required by the Panel to assess submissions,
- arrange stock or property inspections as necessary, and notify the OJD coordinator of the results,
- notify affected producers of responses from the Panel and/or CVO,
- request producer/s to sign an agreement to undertake an OJD Risk Management Plan as approved by the CVO,
- notify the OJD coordinator of any additional information that comes to light that is relevant to a proposed/approved Plan, or of any proposed modification of an approved OJD Risk Management Plan, and
- notify the OJD coordinator of the completion of an approved OJD Risk Management Plan.

5. CVO APPROVED OJD RISK MANAGEMENT PLANS

Proposals for a CVO approved OJD Risk Management Plan will include:

- a brief history including the date of the last known dangerous contact,
- a risk assessment including items such as neighbour risk, fencing security, water movement through the property, rainfall and climatic information, stock watering points,
- any vaccination strategies,
- any testing strategies,
- any destocking strategies,
- any decontamination strategies e.g. grazing by low risk animals or cropping rotations,
- other risk management strategies including plans to fence off high risk areas.
- planned stock inspections by LPHA staff.

A CVO approved OJD Risk Management Plan involving a destocking program to resolve suspicion of infection will be conducted over a 15 month period including two summers. The land may usually be grazed during the 15 month destocking period with:

- cattle, and/or
- terminal 'T' tag lambs that are destocked before 12 months of age, and/or
- 'low risk' adult sheep that are destocked within one year of possible exposure to OJD.

References

- National '[Guidelines for the Implementation of Assurance-based OJD Management in Sheep](#)'.

Definitions

CVO: Chief Veterinary Officer of NSW

CVO Approved OJD Risk Management Plan: A written plan to manage the risk of infection with OJD, that is endorsed by the OJD technical panel and approved by the CVO

I & I NSW: Industry & Investment NSW

DV: District Veterinarian

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

LHPA: Livestock Health and Pest Authority

Low risk adult sheep: Sheep $\geq$ one year of age and derived from a flock that is considered to be of low risk of being infected with OJD, e.g. from a Low Prevalence Area and not known or suspected to be infected with OJD.

Suspected to be infected: Grounds for suspecting OJD in a flock include:

- detection of infection by abattoir surveillance,
- trace back or trace forward contact with an infected flock,
- 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 CVO based on a risk assessment that considers the above factors,

And the flock has not met the requirements for the resolution of suspicion (see National Guidelines).

Terminal 'T' tag lambs: lambs which are to be slaughtered before they cut their first permanent teeth and are identified by an NLIS (sheep) 'T' tag.

VO: Veterinary Officer

Legislation

- [Stock Diseases Act 1923](#)

Delegations

- Delegation of the function of the CVO (see related documents in TRIM)

Related Documents

- OJD form – '[OJD Technical Panel submission template](#)'
- Biosecurity Template - [Property risk assessment template](#), and
- OJD form – Template '[Acknowledgement of the completion of a CVO approved OJD Risk Management Plan](#)',
- [Primefact 882 OJD – The Technical Panel](#)

Policies and Procedures

- NA

Contact

OJD Coordinator

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Industry &
Investment

WRITTEN INSTRUMENT

BIOSECURITY DOCUMENT Ref: 2010/07

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OPERATION OF THE OVINE JOHNE'S DISEASE TECHNICAL PANEL

The attached document is a **WRITTEN INSTRUMENT** issued with the concurrence of the Director-General of NSW Department of Industry & Investment under Clause 8.3 of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Director-General of NSW Department of Industry & Investment and the State Council of Livestock Health and Pest Authorities.

[APPROVED]

[APPROVED]

for R F SHELDRAKE
DIRECTOR-GENERAL
DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY &
INVESTMENT

Date: 13.05.2010

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

Date: 12.05.2010