



NSW JOHNE'S DISEASE CALF ACCREDITATION PROGRAM (JDCAP)

Farm Audit Plan

Aim

To minimise the risk of spreading Johne's disease, should it be present, from adult cattle to the replacement calves reared in the herd.

Note

Complying with the elements of this program does NOT guarantee the production of Johne's disease free calves. When implemented, JDCAP will provide calves of lower Johne's disease risk than calves from non-participating herds.

Element	What is required	How will this be done	Who is responsible	Compliance
The property will be subject to inspection and approval by an Approved Veterinarian prior to the commencement of accreditation	The calving, calf rearing and weaned heifer facilities on the farm must be inspected by an Approved Veterinarian before JDCAP accreditation can be granted. The Approved Vet will, in consultation with the herd owner, develop a calf rearing management plan covering all aspects of calf rearing on the farm. An Approved Vet is one who has completed specific training in Johne's disease control. Animal Health Australia website has details on Approved Vets in your area (http://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/maps).			
Newborn calves will be removed from their mothers within 12 hours after birth.	Calves to be reared as replacement heifers or bulls must be removed from their mothers and the calving area, within 12 hours of their birth.			
Cows will calve down in a clean area that is free of dairy effluent and large amounts of manure.	The calving environment should be dry and it should be large enough to ensure faecal contamination in any one area is minimal. As a guide, 2 cow pats/square metre should be the maximum load. While desiring some shelter for cows and their calves, permanently shaded or damp areas should be avoided. Calving in a shed, unless the shed is cleaned out every week during calving, should be avoided.			

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Calves will be permanently identified and herd records will be maintained.	Herd records that will allow the identification of family groups, age groups or purchased groups of cattle are important for understanding the spread of BJD if it were present in a herd and determining high and low risk classes of cattle within a herd. As a minimum, the birth date, dam, the rearing group and weaning date of the calf should be recorded. Records can be kept on paper, shed sheets or computer. Permanent identification of calves can be ear tags, NLIS tags, tattoos, freeze branding or any other method deemed suitable by your Approved Vet. Calves should get permanent ID as early in their life as possible.			
The calf rearing area will be free of contamination by faeces from adult cattle or other susceptible species.	No adult cattle, goats, deer or alpaca should ever run or graze in the calf rearing area. The calf rearing area, including the calf paddocks, must be separated from areas used by adult cattle. The method of separation will depend on the farm layout but MAY be double fencing, a physical barrier like a solid fence, a bank of dirt, or a wide open area like a road verge. The area must be free of drainage from laneways, yards and paddocks used by adult cattle.			
Only water from low risk sources will be supplied to calves.	Water for drinking and for use in making up milk replacers must be free of contamination from faeces from adult cattle. Rainwater, town water, bore water and water from the main, fenced channels are safest for calves.			
Only low risk milk or colostrum, or milk replacer will be fed to calves.	Low risk milk (or colostrum) is milk from cows that have a low risk of having BJD or shedding the BJD organism in their milk. Cows that are on the preferential cull list for BJD are a high risk of having or spreading BJD and should not be used as sources of milk for calves.			
Once calves are weaned they must only graze paddocks that have not contained - adult cattle - goats deer or alpaca, in the previous 12 months	The paddocks used by calves between weaning and when they are 12 months of age must not have had any - adult cattle (≥ 2 years of age) - Non-JDCAP calves - Non- Cattle MAP calves - Goats deer or alpaca run on them in the previous 12 months. It is preferable that calves do not graze paddocks used by susceptible species until they are 18 months of age.			

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Once calves are weaned they must only graze paddocks that have not been contaminated by drainage and/or effluent from adult cattle.	The grazing area for weaned calves must not be contaminated by manure from adult cattle. Run-off from paddocks that are used by adult cattle, or recycled stored effluent must not run onto weaned calf paddocks.			
If agistment is used, calves should only be agisted with other calves that would minimise the possibility of transmission in infection were present.	Records of agistment. These are required if JDCAP calves are agisted on another property, or new calves are introduced into the JDCAP group for agistment. The records should include details of the other calves' owner and a National BJD Dairy Assurance Score declaration or Cattle Health Statement Animal Health Statement indicating that the introduced calves comply with the requirements. Calves must not graze land occupied by or grazing with calves of lower status for Johne's disease. Your veterinarian will be able to provide more detail about status levels.			
The introduction of calves into a JDCAP accredited herd is only permitted if the calves were from CattleMAP herds, Non assessed herds in the Protected or Free Zone, Check tested herds or were born and reared in JDCAP in a herd of either the same or higher status for Johne's	Records of animal purchases. These are required if calves under the age of 12 months are introduced into the JDCAP group. The records should include the vendor's details and a National BJD Dairy Assurance Score declaration or Cattle Health Statement indicating that the introduced calves are of an equivalent or higher status. Your veterinarian will be able to provide more detail about status levels.			
Your Vet must be notified of any adult cattle showing signs of BJD.	Rapid identification of BJD will limit the spread of the disease in your herd. The signs of BJD are scouring, weight loss and decreased production in adult cattle (typically 5 or 6 year old animals).			
Calves from a JDCAP herd must be separated from all adult cattle, non-JDCAP calves, non-CattleMAP calves	JDCAP calves should always, even during the short period of transportation or at shows, be protected from contact with adult cattle or manure from adult cattle, calves, or the manure of calves, that have a risk of shedding the BJD organism in their faeces.			

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and manure from all other cattle when being transported or being exhibited at shows or sales.				
The DPI will hold a register of all JDCAP accredited herds	The DPI will keep a list of all JDCAP accredited herds. The details of JDCAP herds that have applied to have their herds listed on the public register will be available to the public on request.			
The herd will be subject to annual audit.	It is expected that the calf rearing practices that have been developed by the herd owner and their Approved Vet will be put in place on the farm. To ensure that the program is being implemented and to provide feed-back to the herd owner, the Approved Vet will visit the farm every year (at a time when calves are being born and reared) to reinspect the calf rearing facilities. In addition, a third party (external) auditor may visit the farm to inspect the calf rearing program and facilities. You will be advised if you are selected for an external audit.			

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