



J-BAS in Queensland

What is JD?

Johne's disease, or JD for short, is a bacterial infection that causes the intestinal wall to become thickened. The thickening of the intestinal lining makes it difficult for nutrients from food to be absorbed, which causes chronic wasting in affected animals. The major clinical symptoms of JD are chronic wasting, poor condition, ill thrift and diarrhoea.

JD is spread when the animal sheds the bacteria and excretes it in faeces. JD can remain in manure for six weeks and remain in some environments for up to 12 months.

JD is a slow developing condition that often infects cattle within the first three months of life, generally as calves sucking whereby they ingest faecal matter. Animals can also become infected later in life, though this is less common

JD may stay dormant in the animal for several years without causing symptoms. Affected animals may intermittently shed the bacteria making it difficult to test for.

Due to the complex nature of JD the best line of defence is prevention. Producers are encouraged to make sound decisions in terms of future purchases to prevent the disease from establishing in their herds.

J-BAS and what it means for QLD

J-BAS (Johne's Beef Assurance Score) is a voluntary, market driven tool implemented by industry. JD is no longer regulated by the Queensland Government. J-BAS, a property risk assessment, has replaced previous regulation effective 1 July 2017. Producers who held a transition score of 7 or 8, but who have



not met the planning and testing requirements by 30 June 2017 were dropped to J-BAS 6. Producers can return to a J-BAS 7 or 8 immediately by meeting these requirements before 30 June 2018.

JD is still a notifiable disease, so if producers suspect they have JD in their herd they have an obligation to report it. Producers will not be quarantined for reporting JD nor will they have movement restriction imposed on them. Instead producers will be given the option to manage infection through participating in J-BAS to retain market access to JD sensitive markets.

Most states have moved to deregulate JD, largely at the request of industry. [Western Australia](#) and the [Northern Territory](#) will continue to regulate JD in their states. As a result of regulation, producers who wish to trade in these markets must implement a biosecurity plan on their property and participate in the relevant level of J-BAS for that state.

For movements from QLD to NT (including exports)

- J-BAS 6 herd
- Cattle consigned for direct slaughter are exempt

For movements from QLD to WA

- J-BAS 7 herd
- Check test (50 head) every 12 months
- No co-grazing on property with lower status cattle
- No co-grazing on property with dairy cattle except Dairy score 8 or higher.

Queensland markets and events

Queensland markets

Producers who sell cattle into Queensland markets may not consider themselves to be affected by interstate requirements; however, producers need to be made aware that J-BAS is a market-driven tool and demand will determine who needs to use it.

Case Study – Bill and Tracy live in Gympie and have been selling steers to Peter and Margaret who live in Roma, for the last five years. They take a majority of their stock each year. Bill and Tracy do not wish to participate in J-BAS, but Bill phones Margaret who says they are going to implement a J-BAS 6 to access interstate markets. Whilst Peter and Margaret do not sell a lot of cattle interstate they have a property in Winton that do send steers interstate when prices are good. Margaret tells Bill that because of this participation they will be looking for a J-BAS 6 score or higher for cattle they purchase after 30 June 2017 so they can be sent to their Winton block. Bill does not have to participate in J-BAS, but he now needs to consider his future market.

Case Study - Sue and Tom are traders and buy cattle through their agent and local saleyard. They also have a small bull stud which they sell through major bull sales. Sue chooses to maintain a J-BAS 7 score because at some of their major sales for the year there are Western Australian buyers and Sue does not want to miss a potential sale. For their own peace of mind, Sue and Tom have made the decision that they will only buy from J-BAS 7 or higher as they do not feel they can adequately manage the risks associated with buying J-BAS 0s. Sue tells their agent not to bring them anything without a J-BAS 7 or higher.

Case Study - David has a fattening block. He buys mostly through saleyards but he only on-sells direct to slaughter in Queensland. David does some research and the Queensland slaughter chain is not considered to be a JD sensitive market. David is ok with buying J-BAS 0s, because he will not sell into any other market interstate or within Queensland.

Queensland cattle events

Some Queensland events such as cattle shows may implement a J-BAS status to attend. Exhibitors are encouraged to contact their shows to discuss this further.

J-BAS for Queensland properties with no previous infection

