

Johne's Beef Assurance Score

The Johne's Beef Assurance Score (J-BAS) is a risk-profiling tool developed for use in the new approach to Johne's disease (JD) in beef cattle. It is to be used as a guide and, when introducing cattle, producers should ask further questions about JD in the herd and other species on the property from which the cattle are sourced, rather than rely on the score alone.

Johne's Beef Assurance Score (J-BAS) [numbers equate to Dairy Score]				
On-farm biosecurity plan implemented*	Biosecurity plan implemented for minimum of 5 years	Testing, plus veterinary advisor for plan	Two successive negative Sample tests 2 years apart, and ongoing triennial Check Test	8 High assurance
			One negative Sample test a minimum of 5 years after the last confirmed clinical case (or if no history of disease) and ongoing triennial Check Test	7 Assurance
		No history of JD on property or minimum 5 years since last clinical case confirmed on property		6 Managed disease risk
	If previously infected, minimum of 2 years of biosecurity plan implemented and since last clinical case of JD confirmed on property, plus all high-risk animals identified and removed If no previous infection, biosecurity plan in place for 2 years		4 Progressing	
	Biosecurity plan in place Clinical case(s) removed		2 First steps	
	Suspect, infected and unknown			0 Unmanaged risk

*All plans must be documented. The *National Farm Biosecurity Reference Manual - Grazing Livestock Production* provides a guide to use for the property biosecurity plan. All plans should include the *JD in Cattle Biosecurity Checklist*.

Having other JD-susceptible species (sheep, goats, alpacas) on the property does not affect the score for the cattle herd, but cases of JD in these species must be considered when deciding the score for the cattle herd.

A clinical case is an infected animal with weight loss +/- chronic diarrhoea, that does not respond to treatment.

Transitional arrangements that have applied for 12 months finished on 30 June 2017. From 1 July:

- Herds from the previous CattleMAP and Free Zone (WA) transitioned to J-BAS 8 (if they implemented a vet oversighted on-farm biosecurity plan)
- The former Protected Zone, Beef Protected Area and *Beef Only* herds transitioned to Level 7 (if they implemented a vet oversighted on-farm biosecurity plan)
- Producers wanting their herds to remain JBAS 7 or 8 will need to implement the first triennial Check Test by 30 June 2018.
- Herds that hadn't implemented a plan by 30 June 2017, defaulted to J-BAS 6
- Producers whose herds defaulted to J-BAS 6 but want to maintain J-BAS 7 can complete their vet-oversighted plan as soon as possible and commit to implementing the first triennial Check Test by 30 June 2018 at the latest.
- Herds which did not qualify as J-BAS score of 7 or 8 in the transitional period but have had no previous infection with JD and have implemented a Biosecurity Plan will be given a score of 4. Once these herds have maintained a Biosecurity Plan for at least 5 years (with no occurrence of JD), they can advance to score 6.
- Herds that were previously infected or suspected of being infected moved to the score appropriate to time since last clinical case or 0 if no plan is in place.

Producers should use the *JD in Cattle Biosecurity Checklist* (available at: www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/jd-cattle-tools/) for more information.

Maintenance arrangements

- Levels 7 and 8
 - Maintain property biosecurity plan with veterinary oversight (annual review)¹
 - Triennial Check Test
 - Investigate and resolve all suspect cases
- Level 6
 - Maintain property biosecurity plan
 - Investigate and resolve all suspect cases
- Levels 2 and 4
 - Establish and maintain property biosecurity plan
 - If previous infection then all high-risk animals identified and removed
 - Investigate and resolve all suspect cases

Events that affect Assurance level

- Levels 7 & 8 where testing confirms infection in an animal with no clinical signs:
 - Drop to Level 6, provided other elements of Level 6 are met
 - Are eligible to retest 2 years after the last high risk animal(s) removed to progress to Level 7.

How does a producer develop a Biosecurity Plan for J-BAS?

Plan templates are available on the [LBN](#) and [AHA](#) websites. For producers wanting to maintain or achieve J-BAS 7 or 8, ask a cattle veterinarian about BioCheck for on-farm biosecurity planning purposes. The *National Farm Biosecurity Reference Manual - Grazing Livestock Production* is available from the website www.farmbiosecurity.com.au and provides a guide to use for the property biosecurity plan. It has specific livestock and animal health management sections which outline suggested practices to be included in a cattle Biosecurity Plan. All plans should include the *JD in Cattle Biosecurity Checklist*.

¹ 'overseen' means the vet has discussed with the person completing the Plan the biosecurity risks associated with the property and ways of managing those risks. The vet is to sign as confirmation of having had this discussion.