

WHAT TO DO IF YOUR FLOCK TESTS **NEGATIVE** TO OJD

OJD MANAGEMENT PLAN

You receive a **Negative Test** result for OJD. What now?

Protect your property

We know the most likely way of becoming infected is by bringing infected sheep onto your property. Lateral spread between neighbours is also a risk with OJD. Once a flock is infected OJD spreads slowly and vaccination is the only tool that significantly reduces clinical expression, shedding and on-farm mortalities from OJD.

Implement a Biosecurity Plan

Biosecurity is a good way to minimise the risks of infection to your flock.
Remember biosecurity is also a tool to keep out other endemic diseases such as lice and footrot.

AVAILABLE OPTIONS FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

With neighbours develop a Regional Biosecurity Plan

A collective approach to biosecurity is an effective way to minimise risk and reduce disease prevalence. Guidelines are available at www.farmbiosecurity.com.au

On going testing every two years.

Abattoir inspection or fecal testing are the two tests currently available. Information available at www.ojd.com.au

Fencing and other barriers to reduce the movement of faeces

are important to prevent OJD. Insure adequate quality fencing to prevent strays from neighbouring properties.

Vaccination is a key tool to preventing losses

and will help reduce the risk of infection. The vaccine is a once-only injection given to lambs before 16 weeks of age. Consider vaccination if you are a high risk property i.e. you have an infected neighbour or you trade larger numbers of sheep.

Always purchase sheep with a National Sheep Health Statement (SHS)

The SHS provides advice on the health status of sheep and will allow buyers to assess risk against their own individual circumstances. The responsibility will be on buyers to request and interpret the SHS when purchasing sheep. More information is available at www.farmbiosecurity.com.au.



Remember it takes time for OJD to spread to a point that it can be detected. It also takes time to work through the management processes to control the disease. Management options are developed to maximize production while minimising deaths and risk of spread to neighbouring flocks.

WHAT TO DO IF YOUR FLOCK TESTS POSITIVE TO OJD

OJD MANAGEMENT PLAN

You receive a **Positive Test** result for OJD. What now?

Tell your neighbours and potential purchasers

OJD is not regulated in the majority of States, but owners have a duty-of-care not to sell diseased animals and to report disease to government.

Undertake a risk assessment to identify when infection may have occurred and where it came from

We know the most likely cause of infection is from brought-in sheep or from neighbours. If the infection is relatively recent you will have a different management plan to an infection that has been undetected for any years.

Implement a Property Disease Management Plan

Professional advice is available from vets or farm consultants. A property disease management plan aims to control or reduce the level of infection in an infected flock, reduce pasture contamination on an infected property, minimise the risk of OJD spreading to neighbouring properties and establish lines of low-risk sheep for trading purposes. They can also assist in resolving an infected status as per the Standards, Definitions, Rules and Guidelines for OJD.

OPTIONS FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION – more information is available at www.ojd.com.au

Vaccination is a key tool in OJD infected flocks.

The vaccine is a once-only injection given to lambs before 16 weeks of age. Vaccination is most effective if started immediately after infection is identified.

Monitor the incidence of OJD

through abattoir monitoring and by investigating ewe mortalities. This will indicate how established the disease is on the property and how much of the flock has been exposed.

Flock profiling

to identify high-risk age groups.

Grazing Management particularly in cropping areas

This may involve:

1. Partial or full destocking of property
2. Managing grazing paddocks so that lower-risk paddocks are available for weaners
3. Selling older sheep.

Work with neighbours

to maintain boundary fences and establish a plan for dealing with strays.

Always purchase sheep with a National Sheep Health Statement (SHS)

The SHS provides advice on the full health status of sheep and will allow buyers to assess risk against their own individual circumstances. The responsibility will be on buyers to request a SHS when purchasing sheep. More information is available at www.farmbiosecurity.com.au.



Remember it takes time for OJD to spread to a point that it can be detected. It also takes time to work through the management processes to control the disease. Management options are developed to maximize production while minimising deaths and risk of spread to neighbouring flocks.