

## **Ovine Johne's disease (OJD) Regional Biosecurity Plan Audit**

North West Victoria Regional Biosecurity Plan (NWV-RBA)

*Standard 1 - There are established and documented arrangements between RBA stakeholders. These include a formal regional industry and government partnership which provides the necessary framework for the industry to successfully manage the regional biosecurity plan.*

The name of the RBA is the *North West Victorian Regional Biosecurity Incorporated*. The Chairperson of the group is Kevin Crook. The group is made up of five regional governments in addition to the northern area of the West Wimmera Shire. Each area has elected one committee member as representation on the management group. The NWV-RBA has in place formal arrangement with the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources for both funding and ongoing technical support. The NWV-RBA is currently reviewing our RBA plan after twelve months of operation. The RBA plan is in place at all saleyards within the area, the plan has been printed in many local farming papers and is also available on our web page.

*Standard 2 - There has been commitment from producers and other industry stakeholders within the RBA to protect the disease status of the region demonstrated.*

Since the NWV plan was implemented on 1 July 2014 the Chairperson has attended six meetings with relevant stock agents to work alongside with to ensure the plan was implemented to its full capability. All agents have been strong in their commitment to ensure the benefits would be seen by all NWV producers. Communication has been frequent between the Chairperson and relevant agents to check all details throughout the implementation of the plan. NWV-RBA has advertised the plan and obligations of the plan in local newspapers. As Spring approaches, the NWV-RBA will readvertise as this is the prime season for sheep movement both in and out of NWV-RBA.

*Standard 3 - Members of the RBA have a property biosecurity plan in place.*

NWV-RBA properties suspected of having OJD are contacted by the consultant to the group, Mr David Allen, to develop a PDMP (Property disease management plan). One such plan has been developed this year.

*Standard 4 - Surveillance is undertaken to provide confidence in disease prevalence and for early disease detection.*

NWV-RBA Victoria currently has the most active surveillance for OJD of any of the states under the National Sheep Health Monitoring Project. 1398 lines of direct consignment adult sheep were inspected during the financial year at eight Victorian and three interstate abattoirs, with 52 originating from the RBA. Two of these lines produced positive results; this brings the estimated area prevalence of OJD to 0.5%

*Standard 5 - Sheep entering the RBA meet the agreed minimum standard of the assurance against OJD risk.*

The management of the NWV-RBA encourages all producers to meet minimum standards as outlined in the NWV-RBA Plan. Regular advertising in local newspapers and producers' meetings ensure our part of the NWV-RBA meet the agreed minimum standard of assurance against OJD risk. Stock agents are encouraged to also inform producers to meet minimum standards for the benefit of the NWV-RBA.

Standard 6 - Technical assistance is provided to suspect and infected flocks.

Technical assistance has been provided by NWV-RBA consultant, Mr David Allan to develop a PDMP.

Standard 7 - Suspect cases are investigated.

Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources will inform the NWV-RBA consultant, Mr David Allan of any suspected cases of OJD, and if required a PDMP will be developed.

Standard 8 - Effective control/eradication programs implemented on affected properties.

Mr David Allan, NWV-RBA consultant with additional technical support from the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources will develop PDMP to effectively implement a control/eradication program on affected properties.

Standard 9 - High-risk neighbouring flocks are investigated.

Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources with consultant, Mr David Allen will take the lead role for high-risk flock investigation. The PDMP may be set in place after the NWV-RBA has requested technical advice.

Standard 10 - Tracing of high-risk trace forward and trace back movements is conducted.

Trace forward and trace back will occur in the PDMP process with consultant, Mr David Allan. Government assistance may be requested through technical advice from Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources.

Standard 11 - A Sheep Health Statement is obtained for all sheep movements into the RBA.

Through advertising and communication by stock agents to producers, the committee of the NWV-RBA encourages all producers to obtain a Sheep Health Statement detailing all movements of livestock whether bought, sold or on agistment. Advertising will again start in the Spring when a high number of stock will be moved in and around the RBA.

Standard 12 - Technical information and operational aspects of the RBA are actively communicated to producers, agent advises.

Advertising and producer meeting provide all parties with technical information. Information is posted at regional saleyard throughout the area.

Standard 13 - Compliance is audited and performance is reported at an agreed frequency.

An annual review of the NWV-RBA plan will take place by the committee of management. The Committee will receive regular reports of OJD infections from the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources. PDMP reports will be controlled by NWV-RBA consultant, Mr David Allan.