

Riverina Regional Biosecurity Area 2014/2015 Audit

This audit reports the movements into the Riverina Biosecurity Area which comprises the Hay district from the Riverina area and the area west of Deniliquin in the Murray area. The area has had three extensions to date, the most recent including the Barham-Moulamein area down to the Murray River.

Results of the audit are as follows:

1. Entry requirements for sheep moving into the area are set and followed.

The entry requirements for sheep involve only buying in sheep which have a Sheep Health Statement which confirms that sheep are:

- From a flock free from virulent footrot
- Any rams are from an OB accredited free flock (or a flock tested negative for OB within the past 30 days)
- From another, equivalent, sheep biosecurity group, OR
- Terminal lambs (no more than 50% merino and which will be slaughtered before they cut any permanent incisors, OR
- From a SheepMAP (MN1, MN2, MN3 or MNV) flock, OR
- From a flock tested negative for OJD (PFC 350 Abattoir 500) within the past 2 years

Gudair vaccination alone will not make sheep eligible to enter the area.

Sheep from eligible flocks are still eligible to come into the biosecurity area if they have moved:

- To a show or sale outside a biosecurity area where appropriate precautions have been taken against the spread of OJD OR
- To a saleyard outside a biosecurity area where they do not have access to any feed on the ground and are there for less than 72 hours.

Whilst only obtaining rams from an OB accredited free flock is currently recommended this is not currently being enforced.

2. Suspect cases are investigated and reported

There have been no cases of OJD reported in the RBA. There have been three diagnoses of virulent footrot in the RBA in this time period. One has been cleared by destocking and the other two will destock to clear. There have been two cases of OB recorded in the Riverina Sheep Biosecurity area in this financial year. One is in the process of an eradication program and the other is clear after finishing an eradication program.

3. Tracing of high risk movements backward and forward is undertaken promptly.

District Veterinarians in both the Riverina and the Murray regions have undertaken audits of the mob based movements on the NLIS database to identify movements as low, medium or high risk.

All movements which were originally classified as high risk movements after a desktop audit were investigated further. Most of these movements were then classed as low risk when further details such as NVDs and SHS were obtained. In two cases it was impossible to get enough information about a purchase to correctly classify them so they were classed as high risk movements. These individuals will be sent risk management advice letters along with those individuals who had a medium risk movement.

Movements which on paper still appeared to be high risk were contacted either in person or over a comprehensive telephone audit and mostly then moved to medium risk after the individual circumstances were given a risk assessment.

The most common issue this year which has not been seen previously was people agisting sheep onto properties within the Sheep Biosecurity Area from other areas and not being aware of the Biosecurity Area rules.

Some of the movements had been erroneously stated as coming into the area when they had in fact gone directly to Victorian Abattoirs. This was due to a few agents having the PICs of the abattoirs incorrectly recorded. The situation has since been rectified.

2014	total intro	from RBP	NSW other	VIC other	from Tas	from WA		L	M	H
July	55	42	5	8	0	0		53	1	1
Aug	91	68	12	11	0	0		91	0	0
Sep	133	78	14	28	0	0		125	5	3
Oct	146	105	18	20	2	1		141	5	0
Nov	107	44	6	57	0	0		100	4	3
Dec	63	22	7	34	0	0		55	6	2
2015										
Jan	61	45	2	14	0	0		60	0	1
Feb	77	32	8	37	0	0		75	1	1
Mar	27	14	11	2	0	0		25	2	0
Apr	14	11	2	1	0	0		11	3	0
May	22	16	5	1	0	0		20	2	0
June	42	15	6	21	0	0		36	5	1
Total	838	492	96	234	2	1		792	34	12

Table showing the introductions in the Riverina Biosecurity area in 14/15

4. A Sheep Health Statement is required for all sheep purchased or on agistment.

When movements which were initially classed as high risk were further investigated usually procedure was to obtain the NVD and SHS. Although it is a legal requirement to have a SHS to cross into NSW from Victoria this is not being fully complied with at the moment. Getting a SHS for any sheep entering the biosecurity area is still an area which could be improved upon.

5. Technical information and operational aspects of the regional biosecurity plan are actively communicated to producers, agents and advisers.

Discussion about the RBA, what sheep may be brought into the area and the location of other biosecurity areas has been done in many ways. Agents meetings, one on one discussion with producers and information packs have been used by animal health teams in the Riverina and Murray areas.

Agents, particularly from Barham, have been very conscious about checking the biosecurity area status when buying or selling from the area, including when selling property to a farmer from Victoria looking to move his stud into the area.