New Queensland strategy for Johne’s disease (JD)

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Overview

• Introduction to JD
• BJD – Shift to industry management
• *Biosecurity Act 2014*
• JD Strategy for Qld
• Implications for on-farm management of JD in Qld – cattle focus
• Further information
Johne’s disease (JD)

- Bacterial infection of gut
- Immune response thickens gut
- Mal-absorption causes wasting, diarrhoea, production losses, death
- Slow-growing
- Strains
- Spread in faeces
Johne’s disease (JD)

• Most significant with stress
  – Nutrition
  – Lactation
  – Bullying

• Testing difficult; mostly just for herds, not individuals

• Vaccination of some value
JD occurrence

- Most prevalent in SE Australia
  - Dairy industry
  - Beef with dairy links
  - Beef with sheep links increasing in Victoria
- Increasing prevalence and distribution
- Contrast with low prevalence in Qld
  - Dairy surveys
  - Tracing investigations
  - Ill-thrift investigations
  - Rare cases
  - Associated with recent movements
  - Entry restrictions
- Other low-risk populations
JD – Traditional Queensland perspective

- Low risk populations
- Relatively higher risk interstate populations
  - Trading risks
- Current regulatory protection (*Stock Act 1915*)
  - Entry requirements
  - Quarantine
  - Regulatory response (investigation, tracing)
Bovine Johne’s disease (BJD)

• ‘C’ strain → infection in cattle
• National review
  – Cost-effectiveness of regulatory prevention
  – Sheep risk
• New Framework
  – New objectives
    – Minimise impacts of disease
    – Tools for assessment and management
  – Market-driven industry management
  – Regulatory protection not supported
  – Responsibility of individual producer
  – Notifiable, for export certification
Biosecurity Act 2014

- Commences on 1 July 2016
- Supported by both major parties
- Modern, flexible, integration, accountability:
  - Shared responsibility
  - Risk-based decision-making
  - Decisions under uncertainty
- General biosecurity obligation
- Other tools
General biosecurity obligation

• Requires:
  • All persons who deal with biosecurity matter or a carrier
  • If they know or ought reasonably to know that it poses a biosecurity risk
  • To take all reasonable and practical measures
  • To prevent or minimise the risk.
JD strategy for Queensland

• JD Review Committee
• Industry vision:
  – Low prevalence
  – Industry management
  – Nil/minimal regulatory impost
• GBO:
  – Assess and manage risks
  – Prevent negligent/deliberate spread
• Notifiable
Future management of JD

• Shift to producer responsibility
  – ASSESS & MANAGE RISKS
  – Entry standards
    – Health statement
    – Assess information, ask questions
    – Acceptable risk?
  – Risk management
    – Protect self, herd, trading partners from impacts
    – Flexibility
    – Risk-based – response to increased risks

• Continuing notifiability
Future biosecurity management

- Boundary security
- Introductions
- Monitoring, investigation
- Containment
- Vaccination
- Assurance
- Declarations – both parties
Optional strategy

• Regional/Group Biosecurity Plans
  – Identify group
    – Area/region
    – Group (breed, industry) eg, dairy
    – Shows/sales
  – Leadership
  – Standards of risk management
    – Entry
    – Spread
    – Response to detection
    – Resources
  – Benefits
    – Peer support
    – Common standards
    – Recognition for trade to other Regional Biosecurity Plan areas/groups (WA program unclear)

• Support available from DAF
  – Technical, policy, logistical
  – Not regulatory
Key points

• JD is slow but inexorable
• JD risk management is up to you
• Skill up – it’s not too hard
• Mostly, continue on deliberately
• Group(s) recommended
Further information

• DAF website:
  www.daf.qld.gov.au

• National information on:
  • JD (all species)
  • BJD Review
  • Market Assurance Programs
  www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au

• Biosecurity planning
  http://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au