

Issue

The introduction of the new Ovine Johns Disease (OJD) National Management Plan will take place on 31 March 2008.

Background

The Ovine Johnne's Disease Management Plan (OJDMP) is the culmination of extended consultations between WoolProducers Australia, Sheepmeat Council of Australia, state Departments of Primary Industry and other stakeholders. It seeks to further encourage producers to undertake risk assessments prior to the purchase of stock, in addition to controlling OJD through vaccination and on-farm management practices.

The principal aims of the OJDMP are:

- To minimise the risk to areas in which the disease occurs at a very low to low prevalence and actively manage incursions when they occur.
- Reduce the area prevalence in regions where the disease is endemic through the use of vaccine and the implementation of grazing management practices to minimise the exposure of stock to *Mptb*.
- Promote the benefits of active biosecurity in all areas.
- Provide improved trading opportunities for producers who actively manage the disease through the use of the ABC Scheme.

The *OJD Management Plan 2007-2012* includes the following elements:

- Rationalisation of existing prevalence areas, across state boundaries where appropriate, to new *Low, Medium and High Prevalence Areas*.
- Continued abattoir surveillance to estimate Area Prevalence and to detect OJD in Low Prevalence Areas.
- Allocation of points to Prevalence Areas on the basis of the risk that sheep from these areas represent.
- Promotion of grazing management, vaccination and on-farm biosecurity planning as management tools.

Please see OJD Points Changes Brief for further information regarding the new allocation of ABC points.

For further information on the new Nation OJD Management Plan please contact the Associations Wool and Sheepmeats Analyst Michael Stalley on 1300 794 000