

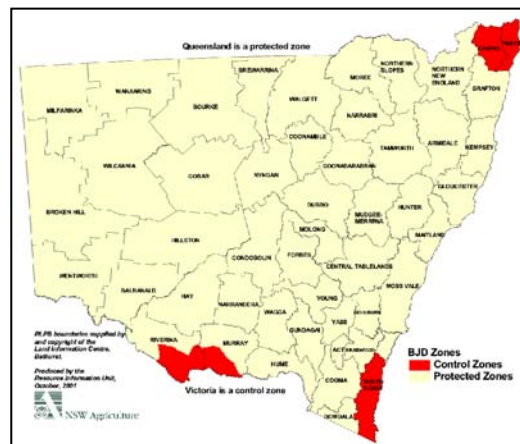
Issue

The current regulatory BJD control program in NSW is being reviewed. A new 3 step program was developed and agreed at the BJD Summit in March 2006. The program introduces market based assurance programs for the beef and dairy industries.

Background

Current Regulatory Regime

- Under the Stock Diseases Act the Minister has the power to establish and enforce zoning and quarantine requirements as a form of protection against the spread of disease.
- Currently in NSW a zoning system is in place for the control of BJD. The majority of Rural Lands Protection Boards (RLPBs) have met the criteria for Protected Zone status. The remaining Boards have part or all of their Boards designated as Control Zones.
- There are specific requirements that have to be met in order to move animals from any zone to one of a higher status.
- At 30 June 2006 there were 80 dairy herds and 35 beef herds infected with BJD in NSW.



Proposed 3 step program

Step 1: Present to 31.12.2007

- Major extension program
- Protected and Control Areas retained, infected and Suspect beef and dairy herds in quarantine
- Dairy BJD Assurance Score used on a voluntary basis
- Auditing of *Beef Only*
- Promote industry-sector based approach nationally.

Step 2. 1.1.2008 to 31.12.2010.

- Protected and Control Areas retained
- Dairy industry
 - Quarantines removed from all Infected and Suspect dairy herds.
 - Dairy BJD Assurance Score fully implemented
 - Mandatory Animal Health Statement giving Dairy BJD Assurance Score with an exemption for cattle moving between dairy herds or moving directly to slaughter
 - Auditing of Dairy BJD Assurance Scores on farm.
 - Auditing of movements from dairy herds to demonstrate lack of risk to beef industry.
- Beef industry
 - Infected and Suspect beef herds in quarantine subject to the continuing availability of the Financial and Non-financial Assistance Package.
 - Auditing of *Beef Only*.
- Promote industry-sector based approach nationally.

Step 3. 1.1.2010 (or whenever the industry-sector based approach is accepted nationally)

- Industry sector approach. NSW all one geographic zone (Protected Zone)

- Dairy industry
 - Voluntary use of Animal Health Statements giving Dairy BJD Assurance Score
 - Auditing of Dairy BJD Assurance Scores on farm.
 - Auditing of movements from dairy herds
- Beef industry
 - Infected and Suspect herds in quarantine subject to the continuing availability of the Financial and Non-financial Assistance Package.
 - Auditing of *Beef Only*.
 - Beef herds purchasing cattle from dairy herds with a Dairy BJD Assurance Score of 6 or less will not be eligible for assistance under the Financial and Non-financial Assistance Package.

Relevant Policy – Cattle

- AC 02 That the Association seek the abandonment of the current BJD control program in beef cattle herds and support a replacement program based on the recommendations of the Sykes report which emphasises herd-based control.
- AC 00 That the Association support a Bovine Johne's Disease program which includes the following elements:
- (a) the development of an accurate and affordable test for the testing of cattle;
 - (b) abattoir surveillance of cattle throughout Australia;
 - (c) the development of a cost effective vaccine; and,
 - (d) a full investigation of the cost and means of funding a financial assistance scheme.

Relevant Policy – Dairy

- July 05 That the Dairy Committee support a national approach to the control of BJD
- July 05 That the Dairy Committee support the removal of BJD zoning.
- Dec 03 That the Dairy Committee support the concept of BJD assurance herd scores as outlined in "Assuring Australian dairy cattle for Bovines Johne's" on the assumption that it becomes a national scheme.

Issues for Consideration

- The respective quarantine and trading arrangements within NSW between Protected and Control zones.
- The Interaction between beef and dairy herds.
- The conduct of auditing
- The response of major trading states, especially Queensland and Victoria.
- The use of mandatory Animal Health Statements compared to voluntary and the use of National Vendor declarations.