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Support for Owners of Bovine Johne's Disease Affected Herds

Owners or managers of herds affected with bovine Johne's disease (BJD) may require technical or financial advice. This information is available from various sources.

Technical advice

Department of Primary Industries (DPI) district animal health staff are available to discuss BJD or other animal health issues with groups or individuals. Technical information regarding BJD can also be found on DPI's animal health website <http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au>. Follow the links through the Farming and Agriculture section. This site also contains links to other BJD sites.

Private veterinary practitioners are another useful source of information regarding BJD.

General dairy and beef management advice is available from DPI dairy or beef industry extension officers. Milk factory field staff and private farm management consultants are also sources of information.

Financial advice

Although losses due to BJD on an individual farm are usually low, affected producers may wish to seek financial advice.

1. Rural Financial Counselling Program

A network of rural financial counsellors provides free, independent, and confidential financial services for farmers and allied small businesses. Counsellors can assist with budgets, succession planning, retirement planning, diversification into other primary industries, obtaining pensions and communicating with financial institutions.

Location	Counsellor	Phone
Bairnsdale	Mr John Meadows	03 5152 1514
Benalla	Mr Carl Fraser	03 5761 1611
Bendigo	Mr Greg Cahill	03 5447 9267
Carisbrook	Ms Lyn Symons	03 5464 2346
Cobram	Ms Jan Sneyd	03 5871 0604
Colac	Mr Wayne Stephens	03 5232 2976
Corryong	Mr Bruce Dwerryhouse	02 6948 4489
Ellinbank	Mr Ilona Kingston	03 5624 2286
Hamilton	Ms Debbie Milne	03 5573 0906
	Mr Greg Lowe	03 5573 0941
Horsham	Mr Patrick White	03 5381 1646
	Malcolm Wyeth	03 5381 1646
Kerang	Ms Dominic Baxter	03 5450 3285
Kyabram	Ms Maryanne Black	03 5851 3426
	Mr Lindsay Brown	03 5851 3421
Leongatha	Ms Jennifer Gibson	03 5662 2566
	Mr Marshall Scott	
Maffra	Mr Jenny Mason	03 5147 0855
Mildura	Mr Graeme Thornton	03 5022 0799
	Mr Don Seward	03 5022 0799
Numurkah	Ms Liz Mann	0427 546 642
Ouyen	Mr Grant Doxey	03 5094 1364
Rutherglen	Mr Paul Blackshaw	02 6030 4500
Seymour	Mr Ken Slatter	03 5735 4342
Terang	Mr Vince Thorne	03 5592 2096
Wodonga	Mr Tony Shirley	0429 484 489
Wycheproof	Mr David McManamey	03 5493 7020

For further information refer to <http://www.daff.gov.au>

2. The Rural Finance Corporation

The Rural Finance Corporation (<http://www.ruralfinance.com.au>) offers the following services:

- The Rural Finance Farm Management Deposit is a scheme whereby farmers are able to reduce their taxable income in high income years by setting aside pre-tax income as a cash reserve, to be withdrawn in less successful financial years.
- The Young Farmer Scheme provides interest rate concessions on land, livestock and machinery loans for eligible farmers under 40 years.

For further information relating to other grants that are occasionally made available contact 03 54482600

3. Banks and Financiers

Banks and financiers may be able to assist by restructuring loans to ease repayments.

4. Centrelink

Centrelink (<http://www.centrelink.gov.au>) provides information on a range of Commonwealth services, pensions and allowances.

- A Farm Help Re-establishment Grant is available for farmers who have qualified for Farm Help and who decide to leave farming. The Dairy Exit Program is the same as the re-establishment grant, but participants must have a Dairy Structural Adjustment Package right.
- General information for farmers wishing to access the aged pension upon retirement is available.
- Youth Allowance Payment is available for low-income families with full-time students over 16 years.
- Financial Information Service officers (FIS) are also available to help make informed financial decisions.

Further information can be obtained by calling 132 850 or Free Call Farmer assistance line 1800 050 585, or 132 490 (Youth Allowance) 132 300 (Retirement) or 132 300 (FIS officers)

United Dairyfarmers of Victoria (UDV)

Members can receive free financial advice, including how to deal with banks and when and how to restructure loans.

Further information can be obtained by calling (03) 9207 5600.

National BJD Financial and Non Financial Assistance Package

The Cattle Council of Australia (CCA) provides assistance to beef cattle producers whose herds are known or found to be infected, or are suspected of being infected, with bovine Johne's disease. The scheme is known as the National BJD Financial and Non Financial Assistance Package. Owners of affected beef herds will be given the opportunity to assess their herd situation with the help of an independent BJD Counsellor contracted by Animal Health Australia. For further information, contact the BJD Counsellor for Victoria, Mr David Allan (tel 0427 572 879 or email david.a.allan@bigpond.com), or local DPI Animal Health staff.

Contact/Services available from DPI

Dairy Farm Monitor Project is a program offered by DPI. It assists primary producers to analyse their dairy farm business and plan for the longer term.

Further information for BJD affected farmers can be obtained from Animal Health staff at your nearest DPI office or on the DPI external site: <http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/farming/bjd>

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