



## What is SheepMAP?

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Updated: May 2008

AG1130

ISSN 1329-8062

*SheepMAP is the Australian Johne's Disease Market Assurance Program for sheep.*

### What is SheepMAP?

SheepMAP is a voluntary, national program to identify, protect and promote flocks that have a low risk of being infected with ovine Johne's disease (OJD). This program was developed in response to calls from the Australian wool and sheep meat industries for an objective flock assurance system. Flocks that are infected or suspected to be infected are ineligible to enter SheepMAP.



*Figure 1. The National Johne's Disease Program logo*

### SheepMAP

This program involves a SheepMAP approved veterinarian, of the producer's choice, performing an initial assessment of the flock history and management. If the assessment indicates that participation in SheepMAP is possible, the veterinarian will then conduct a Sample Test on the flock. Provided this test is negative, and management strategies are in place to minimise the risk of infection, the flock can be assigned a 'Monitored Negative' status.

#### **Without vaccination against OJD**

The initial status Victorian flocks gain is 'Monitored Negative 1' (MN1). This status is valid for two years, after which the flock can remain at MN1 by Maintenance Testing or can progress to Monitored Negative 2 (MN2) through another Sample Test. Similarly, in a further two years, the flock can either remain at MN2 by Maintenance Testing or progress to Monitored Negative 3 status (MN3), the highest achievable SheepMAP level.

An annual audit is also necessary for all levels of this program.

#### **With vaccination against OJD**

In order to both protect the flock and provide further assurance that it is not infected with OJD, SheepMAP flocks can also vaccinate using Gudair™ vaccine. Flocks that vaccinate in addition to complying with the

SheepMAP requirements will be assigned MN1-V, MN2-V or MN3-V respectively.

MN1-V, MN2-V or MN3-V statuses may be maintained indefinitely by undertaking initial vaccination of the whole flock, with annual veterinary audits and annual vaccination of all lambs between 4-16 weeks of age. Progression between MN levels continues to require Sample Testing. Management requirements remain unaltered.

### Why enter SheepMAP?

Local, interstate and international markets are demanding quality assurance for livestock and livestock products. Under the Assurance Based Credit (ABC) Scheme, credit points are awarded for testing and vaccination. SheepMAP flocks have a higher ABC score than 'Nil Assurance' flocks, and can provide assurance they are lower risk of being infected with OJD. For example, a producer in a Medium Prevalence Area receives 2 ABC credits points for location, and by participating in the MAP program they would receive an extra 2-4 credits points, boosting their overall ABC score and increasing trading options.



*Purchasing from a SheepMAP flock provides greater assurance they do not have OJD.*

### Further information

Further information about SheepMAP can be obtained from Animal Health staff at your nearest DPI office, your private veterinarian or from the Animal health Australia web site at <http://www.aahc.com.au>.

*The previous version of this note was written by George Downing and published in September 2006.*

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