



Legal Requirements for Ovine Johne's Disease

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Ovine Johne's disease (OJD) is a notifiable disease. Legislation is in place to protect the Victorian sheep industries.

Victoria's livestock industries are protected by a number of Acts of Parliament. The Livestock Disease Control Act 1994 (LDCA), aims to monitor and control animal disease, provide on-going protection for valuable domestic and export markets, and maintain public safety. Producers and service providers have clearly defined legal obligations.

Notification of OJD

The LDCA designates certain diseases, including OJD, to be notifiable. This means that suspected cases of OJD must be reported to Department of Primary Industries (DPI) animal health staff within 7 days.

Persons responsible for notification can be: an owner, any custodian of livestock, a veterinarian, a meat inspector or meat processing facility operator, the owner of any land upon which stock are present, any knacker, stock agent, or any other person dealing with livestock or livestock products.



Producers must notify their veterinarian or DPI animal health staff if they suspect OJD in their flock

OJD affected flocks

Under the LDCA, owners of 'Infected' flocks are asked to sign an OJD Control Agreement. This Agreement aims to control disease spread on the affected farm and to prevent OJD spreading to other flocks.

The introduction of the national ABC Scheme for OJD means that owners of OJD affected flocks have a means of returning to unrestricted trade. In Victoria, only sheep with an ABC score of 1 or less may have restrictions

placed on their sale and/or movement (apart from the requirement to use a Sheep Health Statement when selling non-slaughter sheep). (Refer to Agriculture Note: *Pathways forward for OJD affected flocks*).

Sale of affected land

Section 32 of the Sale of Land Act 1962 requires vendors to provide details of any notice, order, declaration, report or recommendation of a public authority or government department that affects the land. A Control Agreement for OJD, or any notice served on the owner of an affected flock, should be declared when selling land.

Sheep Health Statement

All purchasers of non-slaughter sheep should request a completed Sheep Health Statement (SHS) prior to purchasing the sheep. The SHS indicates the ABC score of the mob and will assist the purchaser make an informed decision regarding the likelihood of buying OJD infected sheep.

An SHS is a mandatory requirement for all non-slaughter sale stock from flocks infected or suspected to be infected, for consignments that contain sheep with an ABC score of less than 2, and for all non-slaughter sheep entering Victoria. It is an offence under the Stock (Seller Liability and Declarations) Act 1993 and other fair trading legislation for any person to make a false or misleading declaration.

Further information

For further information regarding the legal aspects of OJD, consult your legal adviser.

Further information about OJD can be obtained from animal health staff at your nearest DPI office or on the DPI web site: <http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/farming/OJD>

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