

JBAS Explained (we hope!)

(by Genevieve Guest, Senior Land Services Officer - Livestock, Murray LLS)

JBAS (Johnes Beef Assurance Scheme) is a **voluntary** risk profiling tool that provides buyers the ability to assess the level of risk of Johnes Disease (JD) infection in a herd. Buyers across the country may request a JBAS score before purchasing cattle. The J-BAS is a number between 0 and 8, with the higher the number the more assurance that the cattle are not JD infected.

The J-BAS replaces previously used classification schemes for JD risk including Johnes Management areas, such as beef protected area, **'Beef only' classification** and the Market Assurance Program for cattle (cattleMAP). 1st July 2016 to 30th June 2017 was a **'Transitional'** period for the J-BAS system.

It is important to note there is no longer a differentiation between JD strain types (sheep strain, cattle strain, bison strain etc). Infection of any strain in any species is classed as Johnes Disease Infection.

(NOTE: the JBAS system is reasonably complex and this is intended to provide a quick overview - mainly for producers asking "do I have a JBAS score?". For further detail, please refer to the AHA website, or contact your local veterinarian.

What is my JBAS Score?

- 'Most' beef producers in the Murray LLS were previously eligible to be classified as 'Beef Only'. Remembering the recent change that 'herds that were J-BAS 7 or 8 in the transitional period (1st July 2016 to 30th June 2017) automatically drop to a 6 without further action', most Murray LLS beef herds would now have a J-BAS of 6. To ascertain if you would have met the 'Beef Only' classification (and therefore had a transitional J-BAS of 7, and therefore now have a J-BAS score of 6), read the 'Beef Only' definition below. Under this definition 'Beef Only' does NOT relate to sheep on the property.
- Herds previously in the Market Assurance Program for cattle (Cattle MAP) had a transitional score of 8 until 30 June 2017. To maintain these scores producers had to have a private vet oversee a biosecurity plan and commit to testing, the first testing needing to have taken place by 30th June 2018. Anyone who was a transitional score of 7 or 8 who have not had a private vet oversee a biosecurity plan has now dropped to a score 6.
- Producers who were not eligible to have a transitional score of 7 or 8 but have had no previous infection with JD and have implemented a Biosecurity Plan will be given a J-BAS score of 4. Once these herds have not had a clinical case of JD for at least 5 years and have maintained a Biosecurity Plan for at least 5 years they can advance to score 6.
- If your herd would not have met the 'Beef Only' guidelines during ???, your J-BAS score may now be 0, 2 or 4. You are best to contact your local veterinarian to help you correctly ascertain your J-BAS score.

Returning to J-BAS 7 or 8 after July 1st?

Producers who have dropped to a score 6 will have an opportunity to return to JBAS 7 or 8 by implementing a Farm Biosecurity Plan, having the plan overseen by a vet and having testing.

The Biosecurity Plan: The same Farm Biosecurity Plan can be used for J-BAS and the LPA NVD. If using this Animal Health Australia template, section 7 relates to, and need to be filled out for the JBAS program. Click here for a link to the AHA Farm Biosecurity Plan <https://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/On-Farm-Biosecurity-Plan-Template.pdf>

PREVIOUS 'BEEF ONLY' definition (to help determine your J-BAS current score)

Johnes Disease Beef cattle - Beef Only Herds,

*Beef cattle are all cattle except those born on a dairy farm. For a herd to be eligible as Beef Only, it must meet **ALL** the following criteria:*

- *The cattle are from a beef herd that has not grazed with dairy cattle, or first generation dairy-cross cattle, at any time during the past five (5) years, unless those cattle were from a herd enrolled in the CattleMAP.*
- *The cattle are from a beef herd that has not, at any time in the past, grazed on land that had been grazed by adult dairy cattle (two years or older) during the 12 months before the arrival of the beef herd, unless those dairy cattle were part of a CattleMAP herd.*
- *If introduced into the herd or onto the property(s) in the past five (5) years, the cattle are from herds of the same Beef Only or higher status. This must be supported by a completed National Cattle Health Statement or a signed BJD Vendor Declaration. Without these declarations, you cannot claim Beef Only status for any cattle sold from the herd.*
- *The cattle do not include animals that have been part of a herd classified as Infected (IN), Suspect (SU) or Restricted (RD), according to the National Johne's Disease Standard Definitions and Rules and Guidelines (SDR & Gs) for Johne's Disease in Cattle.*

Anyone not meeting this criteria did not have a transitional score of 7 and therefore will not automatically now have a J-BAS of 6.