

3-Steps to minimise BJD risk in your herd

3-Step Calf Plan

Limiting contact that calves have with adult cattle and sources of manure minimises the risk of bovine Johne's disease (BJD) transmission. Implementing the 3-Step Calf Plan will reduce the risk of BJD in your herd, and will improve the National Dairy BJD Assurance Score for cattle within the herd.

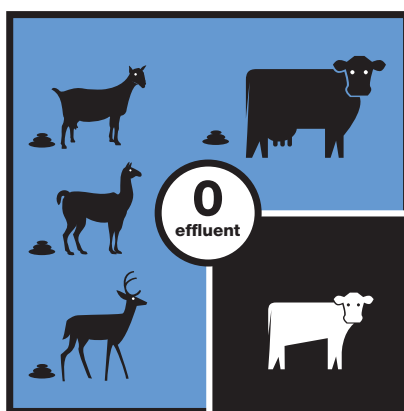
To support BJD control, all dairy companies have included the 3-Step Calf Plan in their on-farm quality assurance programs. It is the herd managers responsibility to keep records that can demonstrate implementation of their calf rearing program.

1



Calves should be taken off the cow within 12 hours of birth

2



Management of the calf rearing area should ensure that no effluent from animals of susceptible species comes into contact with the calf

3



Calves up to 12 months old should not be reared on pastures that have had adult stock or stock that are known to carry BJD on them during the past 12 months

Additional best practice recommendations

Minimising new infections is a critical part of the whole process of managing BJD. Calves are the most susceptible to infection and all efforts should be made to avoid calves coming into contact with potentially infected animals or their effluent. Practices that assist preventing the spread of BJD include:

Calf Rearing

- Ensure cows calve in a clean environment
- Separate calves from their mothers in the calving area
- Avoid feeding calves milk from sick or medicated cows
- Prevent manure splashing into colostrum and calf milk storage
- Avoid using pooled colostrum and milk from high risk cows
- Use elevated feed troughs, hay racks and water troughs when feeding calves
- Use tank or town water for calves where possible
- Consider using milk replacer
- Consider on-farm milk pasteurisation of milk for calves
- Use different equipment to handle faeces and feed
- Fence off drains, boggy and swampy areas of calf paddocks
- Encourage everyone to clean boots, vehicles and equipment when entering calf areas
- Keep cattle, goats, deer, alpaca/llamas out of calf rearing areas
- Never graze calves where dairy effluent has been spread
- Select an elevated area for rearing calves to avoid exposure to effluent drainage

Herd Introductions

- Minimise the risk with herd expansion – source low risk animals
- If you don't know the risk of introduced animals – protect your calves from them
- Consider using only processed semen and embryos
- Consider agisting off-farm only cattle that are 12 months and older
- When showing cattle, find out in advance if movement into the show area requires the herd of origin to have had a negative BJD test

Removal of test-positive animals from the herd

- Understand the use of diagnostic tests for BJD
- Use testing results for culling decisions
- Cull test-positive cattle from the herd as soon as possible and before they calve
- Understand the regulatory implications with test-positive cattle in your State

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For further information on these recommendations, talk to your local veterinarian, state government animal health office or your dairy supply company.

www.dairyaustralia.com.au/bjd Telephone 03 9694 3777 Email bjd@dairyaustralia.com.au