Johne’s Disease Dairy Score

February 2019

The Johne’s Disease Dairy Score is a risk-profiling tool developed for use in dairy cattle. It is to be used as a guide to assess Johne's Disease (JD) risk in a clearly defined group of cattle, such as a herd on a dairy farm or some other discrete grouping of dairy animals. When introducing cattle, farmers should ask further questions about JD in the herd and other species on the property from which the cattle are sourced, rather than rely on the score alone. The Dairy Score, which was last revised in March 2016, has been developed to comply with state and federal regulatory requirements, and meet the specific needs of the dairy industry.

There are three outcome levels to JD management:

- First steps-progressing,
- Managed risk of clinical disease, and
- Managed risk of infection.

There are eight scores within these levels to be obtained via interventions being put in place and an animal satisfying the minimum criteria of that score and all lower scores.

Commencement and Transition Arrangements

This revised score commences immediately but has transitional arrangements until 30 September 2019 for low risk herds. Dairy cattle in WA, QLD or ex-CattleMAP herds or ManaJD herds in SA will be deemed to have JD Dairy Score 8; the highest level, provided they have had no clinical cases or positive tests in the past five years. Herds with no testing history must achieve at least one negative test by 30 September 2019 or they will drop to JD Dairy Score 4. Maintaining the same or higher score after the transition date requires farms to satisfy the required interventions of that score and lower scores.

First steps-progressing

All farms should have a biosecurity plan that meets industry assurance and regulatory requirements. Hygienic calf rearing practices and controls over introductions should be appropriate to the risk of infection on the farm and within the region.

A clinical case means a clinical case of JD of any strain in any species on any farm where the animal spent time in its first 12 months of life. Having no clinical cases in at least the past three years is evidence of progress beyond implementation of the biosecurity plan.

Managed risk of clinical disease

A negative test means a negative HEC Test or Sample Test. The most recent test must have been conducted between 12 months and three years (reducing to two years at the next level). If a positive test occurs, prior negative tests cannot be counted. Herds which achieve JD Dairy Score 8 using four or more Sample Tests may perform Check Tests after the fourth sample test. Further information on tests can be obtained from Johne’s Disease in Cattle Definitions and Guidelines, available on the Animal Health Australia website.

For herds with JD, vaccination of cattle with Silirum® should be considered. This inactivated (killed) vaccine is a tool to complement on farm disease management practices relating to JD. Producers wanting to use the vaccine in their cattle should check with their relevant Department of Primary Industries (or equivalent) about any state/territory rules for using it and follow the label requirements for permanent identification of vaccinates.

Managed risk of infection

Veterinary oversight of a biosecurity plan at level 8, means that every 12 months a veterinarian has discussed with the person completing the plan biosecurity risks associated with the property and ways of managing those risks. Following this discussion, the veterinarian signs the plan to confirm the discussion took place.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk Profile</th>
<th>Achieving the Score</th>
<th>Maintaining Score once achieved</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Managed risk of infection</td>
<td>3 or more negative tests 12 months to 2 years apart AND Biosecurity plan overseen by veterinarian annually</td>
<td>1 negative test every 2 years and maintain active biosecurity plan overseen by veterinarian annually</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Managed risk of clinical disease</td>
<td>3 negative tests 12 months to 2 years apart</td>
<td>1 negative test every 2 years and maintain active biosecurity plan</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Managed risk of clinical disease</td>
<td>2 negative tests 12 months to 3 years apart OR 1 negative test AND approved vaccine and no clinical cases in the last 5 years</td>
<td>1 negative test every 3 years and maintain active biosecurity plan</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Managed risk of clinical disease</td>
<td>1 negative test 12 months to 3 years after attaining score 4 OR Approved vaccine (*) and no clinical cases in the last 4 years</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Managed risk of clinical disease</td>
<td>No clinical cases for over 5 years OR Approved vaccine and no clinical cases in the last 3 years</td>
<td>No clinical cases ongoing and maintain active biosecurity plan</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First steps – progressing</td>
<td>No clinical cases in the last 5 years</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First steps – progressing</td>
<td>No clinical cases in the last 3 years</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First steps – progressing</td>
<td>Biosecurity plan implemented</td>
<td>Maintain active biosecurity plan</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unmanaged risk</td>
<td>Clinical cases not known</td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(*) Approved vaccinate is an animal that, along with all other calves being reared in the same group, was vaccinated as a calf with Silirum® vaccine according to label directions and where the vaccination was correctly recorded on the NLIS database.

**Transitional arrangement**

Dairy cattle in WA, Qld, ex CattleMAP herds and Dairy ManaJD in SA who had a dairy score of at least 7 automatically placed at score 8. They must maintain requirements after 30 September 2019 to retain position.