

New Johne's Disease Cattle Import Conditions for Western Australia Effective 1 July 2021. V2

Breed Association members who have exported cattle to WA in the last few years will have received notification of changes to the Johne's Disease Import Conditions for cattle into WA which will come into effect on 1 July 2021. **Please note that after strong representations by the Australian Registered Cattle Breeders' Association, the conditions outlined in this letter were substantially modified on 1 June 2021 (see below for explanation of these changes)**

In Summary

The Johne's Beef Assurance Score (JBAS) is no longer part of WA's import conditions for cattle being imported to stay in the WA cattle population,

For most jurisdictions (New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania and the Australia Capital Territory), there will be no significant changes to the import requirements other than new timeframes for testing, minimum testing age and herd size criteria.

For the Northern Territory and Queensland, the most significant change will be that properties must undertake Faecal Herd Screening testing, instead of the Check test. To accommodate these changes, transitional periods will apply.

Key changes to the website www.agric.wa.gov.au/JD-cattle-import-conditions include:

- new faecal sampling and testing requirements (not the same as the national JD in cattle guidelines) and corresponding amendments to veterinary and producer declarations
- a requirement for the supplying property to have a veterinary-approved biosecurity plan for cattle staying within WA (not imported for slaughter or export)
- removal of the requirement for the Johne's Beef Assurance Score (JBAS) for cattle imported to stay in WA.

On 1 June 2021, the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development amended the Import Conditions that will come into effect on 1 July 2021 so that the WA faecal herd testing import conditions apply only to:

- the property on which cattle intended for export to WA were born, and
- any property(ies) on which the cattle intended for export to WA resided before they were 12 months of age.

The property on which cattle intended for export to WA were born, and any property(ies) on which the cattle resided before they were 12 months of age, may introduce cattle not intended for export to WA from any other property. However, those supplying properties must not have had any suspected or known infection with JD (C-strain) within the five years preceding supplying the cattle. The faecal herd testing requirements no longer apply to these properties supplying cattle not intended for export to WA.

Producers must detail in their WA import condition biosecurity plan the precautions taken when selecting cattle to reduce the risk of introducing JD onto the property.

Exporting producers must demonstrate that the property on which cattle exported to WA were born and all properties on which they resided before 12 months of age meet the import requirements. This includes providing the following:

1. Producer declaration

- If all of the cattle exported to WA were born on the exporting property, the exporting producer completes the Health Certificate for Movement of Livestock into WA.
- For cattle exported to WA not born on the exporting property, the owner(s)/manager(s) of each property on which those cattle were born or resided before 12 months of age must complete a producer declaration. A template for these producer declarations will be available from 1 July 2021.
- These producer declarations must be submitted with the Health Certificate for Movement of Livestock into WA, which is completed by the exporting producer. The Health Certificate must include declarations for cattle exported to WA that were born on the exporting property.

2. JD import testing results

- If all the cattle exported to WA were born on the exporting property, the exporting producer must provide a copy of the JD import test results for that property, along with the Health Certificate for Movement of Livestock into WA.
- For cattle exported to WA not born on the exporting property, the owner/manager of each property on which those cattle were born or resided before 12 months of age must provide a copy of the JD import testing. It must be demonstrated that all properties on which exported cattle were born and resided before they were 12 months of age meet WA's import testing requirements.

WA's livestock import conditions in the [Health certificate for movement of stock to Western Australia \(Form LB 1\)](#) will be updated to reflect these conditions from 1 July 2021.

A full explanation of the changes is available on the website www.agric.wa.gov.au/JD-cattle-import-conditions

A Check Test involving the testing of 50 head of the older animals in your herd each year will no longer meet the WA Import requirements. Under the new requirements a **faecal herd screening test** must be carried out on the property of origin and any property(ies) that have supplied cattle to the property of origin.

Herd size, age and numbers to be sampled for testing

Beef property(ies) that require testing must have a minimum of 100 cattle that are three years and older. Properties that do not have enough cattle over three years of age and cannot meet the import conditions may submit [an import permit application](#).

The number of cattle three years and older determines the number of cattle that must be sampled.

A registered veterinarian must carry out sampling. When selecting cattle to be sampled for faecal herd screening testing, the veterinarian must calculate the number of cattle of testing age (three years and older) in each mob on the property. The total number of cattle to be tested from the property can then be determined as shown in Table 2.

Cattle over four years of age must be preferentially sampled. If there are insufficient numbers of four-year-old animals, cattle over three years may make up the remaining number to be tested.

Cattle selected for screening must include any in poor condition and all introduced cattle that are three years and older.

Table 2 Homebred herd size, age and numbers to be sampled for testing

Herd type	Number of homebred cattle 3 years or older	Number of homebred cattle to be tested
		Preferentially test: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cattle over 4 years old • cattle over 3 years old in poor condition • cattle over 3 years old
	< 100	Import permit required (see web page)
Beef cattle	100 - 139	115 (or all the testing age cattle)
	140–600	205 (or all the testing age cattle)
	> 600	230

Introduced cattle sampling

Introduced cattle on the property must be tested in addition to cattle born on property according to the criteria outlined below and in Table 3.

Cattle introduced onto the property must be sampled if they are over three years, with the sample to include cattle introduced during the four years before testing sampled preferentially. Additional cattle introduced earlier are to make up the required maximum number sampled (50).

All introduced cattle that meet the above criteria must be tested (up to a maximum of 50 head). If you have fewer than 50 introduced cattle that meet the criteria, test all of them.

Introduced cattle samples must be submitted to the laboratory separately to the laboratory submission for cattle born on property to allow separate reports for each group.

Table 3 Number of introduced cattle, age and numbers to be sampled for testing

Herd type	Number of introduced cattle 3 years or older	Number of introduced cattle to be tested
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Preferentially test:

- cattle introduced in the 4 years before testing
- cattle over 4 years old
- cattle over 3 years old

Beef and dairy cattle	< 50	Test all
	> 50	50

Note: These introduced cattle are included in the testing regardless of whether they will or will not be imported into WA.

The **faecal herd screening test** must be conducted every three years. Depending on your herd size and travel costs charges by your veterinarian, the cost of testing over three years may not be much different to the cost of testing 50 head each year.

Transitional Arrangements for Queensland & NT

Note that transitional arrangements will be in place for cattle from Queensland and NT for the period 1 June 2021 to 30 June 2024. Full details are on the website listed above but in effect herd owners in Qld and NT who wish to sell cattle into WA after 1 July 2021 must have a negative **faecal herd screening test** according to Table 2 above before cattle will be allowed into WA. The herd of origin must also have had **one negative Check test** within three years of importation being sent to WA

Herds with less than 100 head over three years of age

Herd owners that do not meet the minimum herd size of cattle over three years of age may complete an Application for Import Permit available from the website

<https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/bam/legislation-importing-western-australia> (PDF document on left hand side of the opening page) and send it to DPIRD. Each permit is assessed on an individual basis and should include

- * information about the number of animals which might be exported to WA in the next 12 months
- * A copy of results for recent testing of the herd for JD eg Check tests
- * A description of the herd, including the number of cattle 3 years and over and if this has changed significantly since any testing was done on the property
- * A description (including the date and age at the time) of any animals introduced to the herd since 2016 (since cattleMAP ceased) and the JD testing history of the herds of origin of those introduced cattle (if they meet WA's import requirements and have

undergone the required testing, and if not their current JBAS and historical MN status). Have those introduced cattle been included in any testing on the property?

*a current veterinary biosecurity plan

*any property certification eg the property's historical CattleMAP status certificate, JBAS certificate etc

If you have any trouble finding or completing the Application for Import Permit please contact Dr Jamie Finkelstein; ph 08 9368 3805 or email; Jamie.Finkelstein@dpird.wa.gov.au.

For all enquiries about the new import conditions, please contact Dr Caitlin Hargan; ph 08 9368 3010 or email; Caitlin.Hargan@dpird.wa.gov.au .

Each herd will be assessed individually. DPIRD will provide advice on whether your cattle are already eligible to enter WA or what you might need to do for your cattle to become eligible to enter WA. This could include the need to conduct further faecal testing.

The clear message is that if you want your cattle to be eligible to enter WA you should make contact with the Department sooner rather than later, and seek to meet the published import requirements.

For more detail on the new WA Import Requirements go to the website

www.agric.wa.gov.au/JD-cattle-import-conditions

Please work closely with your veterinarian if you wish to be eligible to export breeding cattle into WA.

Alex McDonald
Executive Officer
Australian Registered Cattle Breeders Association