

APPENDIX FOUR

NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON CONTROL STRATEGIES FOR OVINE JOHNE'S DISEASE IN NEW SOUTH WALES - RESOLUTIONS

NATIONAL OVINE JOHNE'S DISEASE CONTROL AND EVALUATION PROGRAM

**NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON CONTROL STRATEGIES
FOR OVINE JOHNE'S DISEASE IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

AMA House, Canberra, April 17th-18th 2001

**RESOLUTIONS
(CARRIED BY CONSENSUS)**

General

1. The National Workshop agrees that giving effect to the principle of ongoing control of Ovine Johne's Disease (OJD) in keeping with the current national OJD program is critical.
2. The National Workshop agrees that, in light of new scientific knowledge and surveillance data, there is a need for significant change to OJD control strategies in NSW, as proposed in the model presented from NSW. The changes proposed at this workshop will enhance the national program but will only be effective with financial support for producers.
3. The National Workshop agrees that an alteration in the approach to regulation in the high prevalence areas should occur, consistent with the need to have OJD control strategies appropriate to the prevalence of disease in that area.
4. The National Workshop agrees that communication, education and industry ownership are extremely important and require greater emphasis during the national program.
5. The National Workshop agrees that greater support must be provided to affected producers whilst unaffected producer's flocks must be protected from OJD.
6. The National Workshop notes that there is a relationship between the level of producer support for any regulatory disease control program and success of that program. The National Workshop agrees that the level of support from sheep producers that is necessary for successful containment of the spread of OJD infection in NSW is unlikely to be achieved without financial assistance for affected producers including producers in high prevalence areas.
7. The National Workshop agrees that whilst movements of infected sheep potentially result in transmission of infection over large distances, lateral spread of OJD between adjoining properties by mechanisms other than intentional movement of sheep is now recognised as an increasingly important factor in disease spread.
8. The National Workshop noted the epidemiology papers indicating that the distribution of OJD was still restricted, with large areas of NSW showing little

or no evidence of infection. The workshop also noted the reports from NSW that indicate significant levels of mortality associated with OJD are increasingly being reported in NSW.

9. The National Workshop agrees that rapid implementation of the resolutions from this workshop should occur if producer support in New South Wales for the national control program is to be improved. The need for greater grass roots support for the program is well recognised.
10. The National Workshop notes that the control strategies for NSW endorsed by this workshop have the broad support of the NSW sheep industry through the NSW OJD Advisory Committee.
11. The National Workshop agrees that it is fundamentally important that the adoption of the strategies agreed upon at this workshop is supported financially. Funds should, as a matter of priority, be directed from national and state funding sources to the implementation of these strategies for OJD control in NSW including the specific on-farm strategies.

Vaccination – The Need For Vaccination

12. The National Workshop agrees that vaccination is now recognised as a potential key element in developing an effective OJD control program for NSW and, subject to proof of efficacy, an essential adjunct control strategy and alternative to property destocking for controlling the spread of OJD from infected properties to adjoining properties, not merely a strategy for alleviating economic loss on heavily infected properties.
13. The National Workshop notes that, despite the recommendations from this National Workshop for immediate wider use of vaccination for control of lateral spread of OJD in NSW, the current trials to assess the efficacy of an OJD vaccine under Australian conditions remain essential to provide objective data to support continued use of vaccination in the future to control OJD and to obtain future access to a registered vaccine product for OJD affected producers as soon as possible. The National Workshop notes that future use of the vaccine will need to be reviewed if the current research finds that the vaccine is not as effective under Australian conditions as is currently expected.
14. The National Workshop agrees that effective regional disease control for OJD is dependent upon effective control of disease spread within and from individual infected properties.
15. The National Workshop agrees that controlling the lateral spread of infection from OJD contaminated properties to adjoining properties will be difficult or impossible without effective strategies to limit the spread of infection and mycobacterial shedding within infected flocks and the resulting increase in land contamination on infected properties.

16. The National Workshop agrees, however, that vaccination must be used in conjunction with other disease management strategies and with strategies to ensure effective containment of vaccinated sheep (for example, security of fencing).

Vaccination – Permitted Vaccine Uses

17. The National Workshop agrees that discussions should be initiated with the National Registration Authority regarding revision of the current Permit for Gudair® vaccine to give effect to the resolutions on vaccine use from this National Workshop. The National Workshop also agrees that discussions should be initiated with the NRA to expedite the registration of Gudair® vaccine in Australia. The National Workshop also agrees that discussions should be initiated with Veterinary Committee regarding the national Standard Definitions and Rules for OJD to give effect to the resolutions on vaccine use from this National Workshop.
18. The National Workshop agrees that, subject to the approval of the National Registration Authority and the approval of the Chief Veterinary Officer of NSW, vaccination against OJD should be permitted in any known OJD infected flock in NSW for the control of disease spread within and from the infected property on which that flock is run, from the time that infection is first detected in the flock and without regard to the existing level of infection or mortality in the flock.
19. The National Workshop agrees that vaccination should be considered by the Chief Veterinary Officer for any flock in New South Wales that is suspected of being infected with OJD, if there is a significant risk that lateral spread will occur from that flock or where the consequences of such spread, if it occurred, would be serious. The National Workshop agrees however that this use of vaccine on suspect properties should have the prior approval of the Veterinary Committee and must be subject to the condition that all movements of sheep from any property on which such a vaccinated suspect flock is run are controlled and monitored.
20. The National Workshop agrees that vaccination should be permitted in any at-risk or suspect flock that is part of an approved Group (Catchment) OJD control scheme in a Residual Area or an infected focus in a Control Area, subject to the prior approval of the Chief Veterinary Officer.
21. The National Workshop agrees that there is an urgent need to develop nationally accepted procedures for determining the true disease status of any suspect flock in which vaccination has been permitted but which subsequently seeks to progress to a higher disease status.
22. The National Workshop agrees that flock vaccination should be considered by the Chief Veterinary Officer of NSW whenever there is an identified risk of

lateral spread from an infected property in the proposed Control (Admin 2) Zone (C2Z) that does not promptly destock following detection of OJD. The National Workshop also agrees that vaccination of the C2Z infected flock should be accompanied by immediate and subsequent flock testing on adjoining properties assessed to be at risk of infection.

23. The National Workshop agrees that whole-of-flock vaccination and the vaccination of any adult sheep introduced onto properties with vaccinated flocks should be permitted in NSW, notwithstanding the lack of research evidence for the efficacy of adult vaccination against OJD under Australian pastoral conditions. This endorsement for vaccination of adult sheep is based on overseas research that has demonstrated efficacy of whole-of-flock vaccination, limited preliminary observations in ongoing Australian vaccination trials and the urgency of the need for a strategy to control lateral spread of infection.

Vaccination – Conditions Of Use

24. The National Workshop agrees that clear and permanent identification of all vaccinates must remain mandatory and that vaccination should only be permitted in flocks that are subject to official movement controls.
25. The National Workshop agrees that an approved and documented Property Disease Management Plan (PDMP) should be required as a precondition for permission to vaccinate any flock in the proposed C2Z area of the NSW Control Zone and should be strongly encouraged for any flock that is permitted to vaccinate in any other zone.
26. The National Workshop notes that the requirement for PDMP implementation as a condition for vaccine use has significant resource implications for NSW relating to the development and documentation of PDMPs.
27. The National Workshop agrees that where whole-of-flock vaccination is implemented, flock mortality should be monitored and the flock owner advised of the potential for a short-term increase in the mortality rate due to the vaccination of already infected adults in the flock and advised of the current lack of proof of efficacy of adult vaccination against OJD under Australian pastoral conditions.
28. The National Workshop agrees that owners of flocks that are vaccinated by contract vaccinators should nonetheless receive some formal training, be formally advised of the responsibilities of owners of vaccinated sheep and acknowledge having received this training and advice as a precondition of permission to have their flock vaccinated.
29. The National Workshop notes concern about potential liability associated with the use of a vaccine product that is not yet registered by the NRA for use in

Australia and recommends action be taken to ensure all users of the vaccine and owners of vaccinated sheep are made aware of the implications for them of using an unregistered product, to limit this liability.

30. The National Workshop notes the importance of meat quality and product integrity issues related to vaccination against OJD and these should be continually monitored as vaccination is more widely adopted, with appropriate responses if necessary (e.g. improved training in proper vaccination techniques).

Sheep Identification

31. The National Workshop agrees that the introduction of a national livestock identification scheme for sheep is critical for the effective future control of OJD in Australia.

Permitted Movements

32. The National Workshop agrees that the trading of all potentially infected sheep for which trading is permitted, including vaccinated sheep and assessed low-risk sheep, must be regulated and carefully controlled in order that the risk of disease spread at the point of destination is minimised.
33. The National Workshop agrees that regulated trading of sheep assessed as low-risk (including vaccinated sheep) according to Appendix 8 of the Standard Definitions and Rules for OJD (under development), should be permitted from infected and suspect properties according to the following schedule:

Origin	Destination		
	RZ	C1Z	C2Z
IN Property in RZ	IN/SU property	IN property (with CVO approval)	Not Permitted
IN Property in C1Z	IN/SU property	IN property (with CVO approval)	Not Permitted
IN Property in C2Z	IN/SU property	IN property (with CVO approval)	IN property (with CVO approval*)
SU Property in RZ	IN/SU property	IN property (with CVO approval)	Not Permitted
SU Property in C1Z	IN/SU property	IN property (with CVO approval)	Not Permitted
SU Property in C2Z	IN/SU property	IN property (with CVO approval)	IN property (with CVO approval*)

*exceptional circumstances only

34. The National Workshop agrees that there will be a need to amend the SD&Rs for OJD to give effect to the recommendation from this workshop that

controlled movement of sheep be permitted from infected properties to suspect properties in the Residual Zone.

Property Disease Management Plans (PDMP)

35. The National Workshop endorses the concept of the PDMP which comprises appropriate measures aimed at control or reduction of disease on infected properties, elimination of infection from infected properties or exclusion of infection from neighbouring properties.
36. The National Workshop agrees that on-farm disease control is likely to be more effective if management strategies designed to reduce on-farm transmission of OJD are introduced at the same time as vaccination.
37. The National Workshop agrees that owners of properties in the proposed NSW Control (Admin 2) Zone (C2Z) that are known to be infected with OJD should be required to implement an approved PDMP. Owners of properties outside the C2Z that are known to be infected should be encouraged to implement an approved PDMP.
38. The National Workshop agrees that permission to sell or purchase sheep to or from an infected property should be conditional upon development and implementation of a PDMP.
39. The National Workshop agrees that profiling of infection within an infected flock may be a component of any PDMP.
40. The National Workshop agrees that OJD affected producers in any zone should receive technical and financial assistance for the development and implementation of a PDMP and sources of such assistance need to be identified.
41. The National Workshop notes that specific assistance strategies may be necessary for owners of sheep flocks who are experiencing exceptional losses due to restrictions on trading (e.g. some infected studs and some former MAP flocks), to assist these producers to develop PDMPs to maintain their trading options and salvage their genetics. This is critical to achieving the level of producer support necessary for effective disease control in NSW.
42. The National Workshop agrees that the potential for disease elimination and property decontamination under a PDMP without total destocking should be investigated, as recommended by the Hussey-Morris report.

Zoning

43. The National Workshop agrees that control of OJD in New South Wales should be administratively managed in three zones on the basis of
- known disease prevalence
 - regional industry (producer) control objectives
 - consistency with the overall state disease control plan
- with control policy developed for each zone appropriate to the needs and control imperatives of each zone, in accordance with the proposed model for control of OJD in NSW as detailed in the National Workshop program papers.
44. The National Workshop agrees that the three zones in NSW will be designated:
- Residual
 - Control (Admin 1) or C1Z
 - Control (Admin 2) or C2Z
- C1Z is that area of the current Control Zone in NSW adjoining the current Residual Zone and which has been identified as a moderate disease prevalence area for OJD. The C1Z is also that area of the NSW Control Zone which is unlikely to progress to Protected Zone status at the same time that the C2Z part of the Control Zone in NSW and the Control Zone areas of other states progress to Protected Zone status.
- [NOTE: In the National Workshop Program Papers, the C1Z area was referred to as the buffer Control Zone (CZ) and the C2Z area as the Proposed Protected Zone (PPZ).]

Approved Tests

45. The National Workshop agrees that the Technical Advisory Group of Veterinary Committee should review the merits of all of the available tests for OJD with a view to considering whether:-
- The Pooled Faecal Culture Test should be the only screening test approved on a national basis which, if negative and based on appropriate sampling, can result in status progression of an individual property for either surveillance purposes or market assurance.*

Infected Property Profiles

46. The National Workshop notes that there may be a need for Infected Flock Profiles (IFP) to be conducted on infected properties to support the following activities:
- Identifying relevant traces which need to be investigated (all traces are obtained and all involved producers and interstate authorities are notified as per current policy).
 - Development of Property Disease Management Plans.

- Genetic salvage.
- Development of short and long-term trading options for low-risk (including vaccinated) sheep.
- Testing over a period of time in some flocks to assess the potential for progression of status.

Funding should be provided for the investigation of the potential role of IFPs, and for IFP development, from the national surveillance program provided a demonstrated savings results, and from the research component of the national program.

47. The National Workshop agrees that research into both mortality and the sub clinical effects of OJD is important.

End