

Ovine Johne's disease (OJD) Purchaser Risk Assessment

Risk Assessment for OJD when purchasing sheep – follow the steps		
Flock testing, history and vaccination- see Sheep	Risk of importing	Risk of sheep
Health Declaration	OJD (%)	showing signs
		of OJD (%)
Sheep MAP MN3 + vaccination	1%	0.01%
MN3	2%	0.1%
MN2 + vaccination	1.25%	0.02%
MN2	2.5%	0.2%
MN1 + vaccination	1.5%	0.02%
MN1	3%	0.2%
Whole flock approved vaccinates for 10 years	1%	0.1%
PFC350 (Faecal 350) in last two years	3%	0.5%
Regional Biosecurity Plan area	5%	0.5%
Whole flock approved vaccinates	10%	0.5%
All sheep in mob approved vaccinates (at <16w)	20%	1%
All sheep in mob vaccinated prior to sale (>16w)	25%	2%
Abattoir 500 clear	30%	4%
Abattoir 150 clear	35%	5%
No OJD declared	50%	7%
OJD detected on farm and not managed	100%	15%

Qualifiers

- 1. Closed or open flock? If closed flock, risk is reduced. Check out how many times vendor has traded sheep. Risk doubles with each trade.
- 2. Number of sheep traded- if buying >1,000 head, risk is 5-10x higher than buying in a few rams (even for vaccinated sheep)
- 3. Age of sheep purchased- if buying lambs for fattening, turn off prior to 12m of age. Risk increases after they reach 12m of age. Older sheep more likely to be shedding OJD bacteria.
- 4. Quality of fences/gates, strays policy, records, sheep body condition, worm egg counts- subtle but important indicators of reliability of SHS information.
- 5. Breed Dorper or Merino>XB Merino>Border Leicester>Poll Dorset

Region-

Rainfall and stocking rate- high rainfall regions have higher risk of bacteria surviving on pastures. Infected animals in low rainfall areas can still transmit infection by contaminating dams etc. Known high-risk OJD areas are Central and Southern NSW, all of Victoria except NW, Tasmania, southern regions of WA. Present but mainly managed in Southeast of South Australia and Kangaroo Island. No OJD known in Queensland.

Note: This guide is for approximate assessment of the risk of buying in sheep with known history. It is designed as an aid to your biosecurity plan and does not replace any official guideline or document such as the Sheep Health Declaration or state government regulations. For more information on OJD talk to your veterinarian or see https://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/what-we-do/endemic-disease/ovine-johnes-disease-in-australia/