

Keep these points in mind

- OJD costs money in deaths and lost production.
- Using the ABC Scheme can reduce the risk that your sheep become infected or infect other people's flocks.
- Using the ABC Scheme can improve your trading position.
- You can check the ABC score of any sheep you're interested in buying or agisting BEFORE they arrive on your property using a Sheep Health Statement.
- To protect your flock, only introduce sheep with the same or, preferably, a higher ABC score than the highest score sheep in your flock.

Sheep buyers can determine the risk of OJD in sheep by requesting a completed Sheep Health Statement from the vendor.

Sheep sellers can declare the consignment ABC score in writing on the Sheep Animal Health Statement.

The higher the ABC score, the lower the risk of OJD

FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact:

- your veterinarian
- your stock agent
- Department of Primary Industries, Water & Environment (DPIWE)
Animal Health staff, free call 1300 368 550 or tel (03) 6233 6875
- Tasmanian Farmers & Graziers Association, tel (03) 6332 1800

Alternatively, visit the DPIWE web page:

www.dpiwe.tas.gov.au/ojd

“By purchasing sheep with a high ABC score you are protecting your sheep from OJD, your flock's trading status and your own ABC score. You are also protecting your neighbours.”

BUYING, SELLING OR AGISTING SHEEP?

The ABC Scheme can help you reduce the risk of ovine Johne's disease (OJD)



What is the ABC Scheme?

The Assurance Based Credit (ABC) Scheme is a way of assessing the risk that sheep have ovine Johne's disease (OJD). It is intended to help sheep producers reduce the chance of their flocks becoming infected, as well as providing a way for owners of infected flocks to improve their trading position.

Under the ABC Scheme, 'credits' can be claimed under four categories:

- (1) *regional level of OJD*
- (2) *flock testing* (includes SheepMAP status)
- (3) *OJD vaccination*
- (4) *risk assessment* of groups within infected or suspect flocks by approved veterinarians.

Mainland Tasmania flocks not suspected or known to be infected will start with **3 credits** from the *regional level category*.

Mainland Tasmania flocks suspected or known to be infected and all Flinders Island flocks will start with **zero credits** from the *regional level category*.

Additional credits can be claimed by all flocks from the other three categories.

The ABC score is calculated by the vendor using the **Sheep Health Statement**, a declaration for sheep intended for sale or agistment. A consignment of sheep can have an ABC score of up to 10 credits.

Copies of the Sheep Health Statement are available from your stock agent, Department of Primary Industries, Water & Environment (DPIWE) Animal Health staff, the DPIWE web page (www.dpiwe.tas.gov.au/ojd) or the Tasmanian Farmers & Graziers Association (TFGA).

How is the ABC Scheme used in Tasmania?

For the majority of Tasmanian sheep producers, it is business as usual with respect to OJD, with the exception of having the **option** of using a Sheep Health Statement.

The following conditions apply to the sale or agistment of sheep in mainland Tasmania:

Consignment ABC score	Restrictions for mainland Tasmania flocks
Zero credits	Sold for slaughter only by 'over the hooks' or Auction Plus.
1 or 2 credits	Can be sold on the open market with a mandatory Sheep Health Statement signed by the vendor.
3 or more credits	No restrictions. A signed Sheep Health Statement is strongly recommended but not mandatory.

Movements between flocks on Flinders Island are permitted, irrespective of the ABC score of the flock or origin. Use of a Sheep Health Statement is recommended, but not mandatory.

There is no minimum ABC score for slaughter sheep being sold from Flinders Island to mainland Tasmania by 'over the hooks' or Auction Plus. A minimum of 1 credit and a signed Sheep Health Statement is required for moving all other sheep to mainland Tasmania from Flinders Island.

What about terminal cross-bred lambs?

For both mainland Tasmania and Flinders Island, there is **no minimum** ABC score for trading terminal crossbred lambs, identified with a sheep National Livestock Identification Scheme (NLIS) 'T' ear tag, before cutting any adult teeth, irrespective of the status of the flock of origin.

Note that terminal cross-bred lambs with a score of 3 credits or higher **do not** need to have a NLIS 'T' ear tag.