



Identification of ovine Johne's disease vaccinated or affected flocks

February 2005

AG1132

ISSN 1329-8062

Alison Lee, Bendigo

It is important to know how to identify sheep vaccinated against ovine Johne's disease (OJD) and sheep originating from OJD infected flocks.

Identification of sheep vaccinated against OJD

Producers who choose to vaccinate their flocks against OJD are required to identify all vaccinates with a NLIS (Sheep) ear tag.

NLIS (Sheep) is an abbreviation for National Livestock Identification Scheme (Sheep). One side of a NLIS ear tag always contains the farm's Property Identification Code (PIC) and the NLIS logo. Producers who run cattle will already have a PIC ('tail tag number'). A PIC can be obtained by calling the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) on 1800 678 779.

When sheep are vaccinated against OJD, a capital 'V' in a circle (Ⓥ) must be printed on the opposite side of the ear tag to the PIC and NLIS logo. Additional serial numbers, a stud name or other details may be placed on this side of the tag if required.



Ⓥ on a NLIS (Sheep) ear tag means vaccinated against OJD

NLIS tags can be placed in either the left or right ear. These tags must never be removed from vaccinated sheep.

NLIS (Sheep) breeder tags are colour coded to the year of birth. Yellow tags are used for sheep born in 2005.

When purchasing sheep, vaccinated or unvaccinated, it is important to determine the ABC Score of the sheep. This will determine the likelihood that the sheep are infected with OJD. (Refer to Agriculture Note: Assurance Based Credits (ABC) Scheme and the Animal Health Statement).

Identification of store terminal lambs from OJD affected properties

Store terminal (crossbred) lambs from OJD affected flocks may be sold for finishing on another property. They must be identified with a NLIS (Sheep) ear tag with a capital 'T' in a circle (Ⓣ) on the opposite side of the ear tag to the PIC and NLIS logo. They must also be sold with an accompanying Animal Health Statement (AHS).



Ⓣ on a NLIS (Sheep) ear tag means terminal lamb and must be sold for slaughter prior to cutting their first two permanent teeth

These lambs are suitable for finishing but must be sold for slaughter prior to cutting their first two permanent incisor teeth. If they are slaughtered prior to reaching this age they are considered to be minimal risk of spreading OJD onto the purchasing property. It is unlikely restrictions will be placed on the purchasing property if they are sold for slaughter prior to cutting their first two permanent teeth.

Terminal lambs from affected flocks (and higher prevalence areas) interstate will also be identified with a similar tag and will be sold with an AHS.

Finished terminal lambs from OJD affected flocks may be sold for slaughter through saleyards. These animals need not be tagged with a NLIS (Sheep) 'T' tag, but must be sold with a written declaration (ie a National Vendor Declaration (NVD)) stating 'For Slaughter Only'.

For further information

Further information about OJD can be obtained from animal health staff at your nearest DPI office or on the DPI web site: <http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/farming/OJD>

The advice provided in this publication is intended as a source of information only. Always read the label before using any of the products mentioned. The State of Victoria and its employees do not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequence which may arise from you relying on any information in this publication.