



“Beef Only” – a new way of trading cattle in South Eastern Australia

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Sally Ridge, Attwood

Beef cattle which meet specific eligibility requirements that ensure that they have a very low risk of having or spreading Johne's disease, may now be freely traded in Eastern Australia.

"Beef Only"

Beef Only cattle are beef cattle that have minimal contact with dairy cattle and have not grazed pasture that previously was used to run adult dairy cattle.

Johne's disease mainly occurs in dairy cattle in southern Australia. *Beef Only* recognises that there are very few pure beef herds known to have Johne's disease and that testing of these types of herds has found that the great majority of them contain no test positive animals.

The assurance from *Beef Only* comes from each herd's own biosecurity and a history of trading only within that low risk sector of the cattle industry.

As a result of experiences with testing beef herds and following extensive trials of *Beef Only* sales, the beef cattle industry and state animal health authorities agreed in July 2004 that cattle from herds that qualify as *Beef Only* represent a low risk for bovine Johne's disease.

Subsequently, they also agreed that breeding cattle originating from herds that qualify as *Beef Only* will be able to be traded into the bovine Johne's disease Protected Zones in Queensland, New South Wales, South Australia and Tasmania without the herd of origin having to be tested.

So, beef herds in Victoria that meet the *Beef Only* standard and declare it on an Animal Health Statement are able to move cattle through much of Australia without testing.

How does a herd qualify as *Beef Only*?

A *Beef Only* herd is one that

1. Does not include animals that have been part of a herd which is classified as Infected (IN), Suspect (SU) or Restricted (RD) according to the National Johne's Disease Standard Definitions and Rules (SDR) for Cattle (5th Edition August 2003) and,
2. Has not grazed with dairy cattle or dairy-cross cattle at any time during the previous five (5) years, unless those dairy cattle were from a herd enrolled in the

Australian Johne's Disease Market Assurance Program for Cattle (Cattle MAP) and,

3. Has not, **at any time in the past**, grazed on land, that had, in the 12 months before the arrival of the beef herd, had been grazed by adult dairy cattle (2 years old or older) unless the adult dairy cattle were part of a CattleMAP herd.
4. Has only introduced into the herd or onto the property(s), cattle that have come from herds which are of the same (*Beef Only*) or higher status (BC-TAS, MN1, MN2, MN3) for bovine Johne's Disease and came with an Animal Health Statement or bovine Johne's Disease vendor declaration, and
5. Ensures that all cattle that leave the property are identified with an appropriate National Livestock Identification Scheme (NLIS) device.

Animal Health Statements (AHS) are available from livestock agents, Animal Health staff at your nearest DPI office or <http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/farming/bjd>.

Private sales, video sales, stud and store sales may all include *Beef Only* cattle, provided the *Beef Only* lots are identified with NLIS, are accompanied by a *Beef Only* AHS, are marked as *Beef Only* by a pen card (or something similar) and are separated from cattle of a lower status. Regular auditing by DPI staff will be undertaken to ensure the integrity of the *Beef Only* scheme.

Please note that cattle from untested *Beef Only* herds are NOT eligible for entry to CattleMAP herds, Western Australia or the Northern Territory.

Further information

Further information about bovine Johne's disease can be obtained from Animal Health staff at your nearest DPI office or on the DPI web site.

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