

SADA UPDATE

28 June 2017

Johne's disease and Budget opportunity

There has been lots of talk in recent times regarding Johne's Disease. As we understand it, the key thing is **keep doing what you have been doing and you can keep trading as you have been trading**. The only caveat is if you are trading into Western Australia which requires J-BAS 8 or dairy score 8 plus additional testing. Management of Johne's Disease was deregulated in Australia from 1 July 2016

In the SA Dairy Industry, PIRSA manages the Dairy ManaJD program and producers will have a certificate that describes their Dairy Assurance Score. Over 70% of SA dairy herds are tested and maintain negative herds with a dairy assurance score of 7 or above. Farmers should be aware that introducing cattle of a lower or unknown score will change their current assurance score. In South Australia, all dairy herds have a Dairy Assurance Score (DAS) based on a number of known infections; a number of negative tests on the herd; or other management factors.

Johne's disease is an infectious bacteria caused by the bacterium *Mycobacterium paratuberculosis*. Two strains dominate in Australia. One strain is seen as sheep-associated and the other cattle-associated. It is now recognised that both strains can infect multiple species. Johne's disease can also affect goats, deer and alpaca. It's a serious wasting disease that primarily affects the intestinal tract. Johne's disease (JD) bacteria affect animals by causing a thickening of the intestinal wall resulting in a reduction in the absorption of food. The infected animal is hungry and eats, but cannot absorb any nutrients. This results in wasting and finally death. Diarrhea and bottle jaw are also common signs in cattle. It can take many years from first infection to when these signs occur, and animals can shed bacteria in their manure in the meantime.

For more information visit:

www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecurity/animal_health/cattle/bovine_johnes_disease

www.dairyaustralia.com.au/Animal-management/Animal-health/Bovine-Johnes-Disease.aspx

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The Budget

SADA attended a budget lock up last week which for the most part turned out to be a good opportunity for a snooze. As reported widely in the media, there was little in the budget for Regional South Australia ... however we did notice one area which may be of benefit for some dairy farms.

As part of the budget, the Government announced a new \$200m Future Jobs Fund – with a new website sajobstoday@sa.gov.au as part of the fund; businesses and non-government organisations are invited to apply for \$50 million in grants and \$70 million in low interest loans to help develop globally competitive industries and industrial capabilities in five key sectors in South Australia – with dairy sitting squarely in one of these sectors.

Tourism, food and wine: includes proposals which will create jobs through investment in new or expanded food or beverage manufacturing operations; investment in new or expanded primary production activities; and investment in new or expanded tourism facilities and experiences which will attract inbound visitors. The application process is already underway and key dates are outlined below.

Key dates (as found in the Guidelines):

- Opening date: 22 June 2017
- Close of applications for business case support grants: 14 July 2017 (17:00 ACST)
- Applicants notified of decision on business case support grants: 28 July 2017
- Application closing date for Future Jobs Fund grants and loans: 29 September 2017 (17:00 ACST)
- Applicants notified of decision on future Jobs Fund grants and loans: 30 November 2017
- Project commencement date: Prior to 30 June 2018
- Acquittal: As per funding agreement