

OBJECTIVE:

To avoid importing MAP into the herd from high risk sources.

BEST PRACTICE

- Maintain a closed herd with good boundary fencing
- Purchase only JD test-negative adult stock
- Verify herd-of-origin and establish JD history
- Use AI and buy tested bulls only

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- Purchase heifers or young cows only
- Isolate and test new animals
- Do not graze purchased stock on a heifer rearing run-off

HIGH-RISK BEHAVIOURS

- Purchasing empties to carry over, and cull cows
- Buying cows with signs of diarrhoea and poor body condition
- Poorly maintained boundaries on any run-off

NOTES

Establishing the true JD status of a herd is difficult – JD is widespread but look for low risk herds. Use only a trusted source and get to know the herd or origin of bulls for natural mating.

Minimise the changes of bringing MAP into the herd

The best policy to keep diseases out is a closed herd behind secure boundaries. Purchase healthy young stock from known sources only. Try to establish herd JD status:

- Ask about JD incidence or clinical signs and rearing practices
- Inspect the farm, the whole herd and not just the animals to be purchased
- Test adult stock before purchase to exclude highest risk animals
In calves and yearlings test performance is poor – so little point to test. If positives are found amongst rising-two or first calf heifers, this is a high risk herd! Avoid!

Artificial insemination is safe

AI keeps one primary source of MAP infection – faeces – off the farm. MAP in semen is rare (if bull has advanced JD, some MAP is possible, but a very low risk).

Natural mating bulls

Screen bulls at same time (before purchase) as BVD and EBL tests.

Keep the heifer rearing block clean

Ensure that boundary fencing at the run-off is secure.

Consider running water from neighbouring grazing property as a potential source of MAP and fence-off water ways.

Paddocks below a neighbouring property may also be at risk of MAP runoff from contaminated pasture – avoid heifer grazing. Do not purchase empty cows to carry-over on a heifer rearing block.

Cull cows from sale yards area a high risk for MAP

Buying cattle at a sale yard can be particularly risky because of

- Multiple and unknown sources
- Cull cows in poor condition
- Older cows and empties
- Any signs of JD e.g. ill-thrift.

Purchase stock only from a reputable source and known herd-of origin.

Transport

Do not move any animals in shared or uncleaned transport.

Avoid any other stock contact.

