



CATTLE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

5/10

MEDIA RELEASE

13.04.10

Cattle Council extends BJD funding for beef producers

Cattle Council of Australia has announced a three-year extension to the Financial and Non-Financial Assistance (FNF) Package for beef producers affected by Bovine Johne's disease (BJD).

The FNF Package provides a number of measures to eligible beef producers whose herds are identified with, or suspected of having, BJD.

These measures include testing, developing a property disease management plan, destocking if required and ongoing access to the services of a BJD counsellor to assist producers obtain veterinary services.

BJD counsellor David Allan said that the Package delivered practical solutions to producers, and the three-year extension had been very well received.

"The Package offers a constructive way forward for producers to resolve the BJD status of their herds," Mr Allan said.

"In most cases, it's allowed producers to return to unrestricted trading and make improvements to the BJD status of their property and herd. They've also come away with a much clearer understanding for the importance of good on-farm biosecurity practices, such as insisting on an animal health statement from the vendor when buying cattle," Mr Allan said.

Since the commencement of the FNF package in 2004, it has provided assistance to 187 beef producers across all states of Australia and the number of known infected beef herds nationally has dropped from 142 in 2004 to 52 in 2009.

Cattle Council of Australia recognises the importance of ensuring the very low prevalence of BJD in the Australian cattle herd.

"The continued very low prevalence of BJD in the Australian cattle herd is well regarded internationally and continues to support the 'clean' image of Australian beef," Jed Matz, Deputy Director of the Cattle Council said.

"It is important to note that all cases are treated confidentially and I encourage all beef producers to contact the BJD counsellor in their state if they suspect BJD in their herd," concluded Mr Matz.

For further information about the FNF Package and counsellor details, refer to:

[www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/programs/jd/nbjdsp\\$/financial_assistance.cfm](http://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/programs/jd/nbjdsp$/financial_assistance.cfm)

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About BJD

BJD is a chronic wasting disease of cattle that can lead to death. It is caused by the organism Mycobacterium paratuberculosis and currently there is no cure. In Australia the disease is seen more frequently in dairy and dairy-cross cattle, and beef producers are reminded to purchase dairy cattle only with a high dairy assurance score.

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