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Changes to Johne’s Disease abattoir surveillance in South Australia

A voluntary system of surveillance for Johne’s disease (JD) in sheep is now place in Thomas Foods International (TFI) abattoirs.

As of last Friday (April 20) all producers must fill in the request forms if they wish to receive abattoir monitoring results for JD.

Chief Veterinary Officer Dr Roger Paskin said the change will bring South Australian abattoir surveillance operations in line with interstate practices.

“Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA), supports TFI’s decision to change the surveillance program from being an automatic part of their operations to only being conducted at the producer’s request,” he said.

The Voluntary Abattoir JD Surveillance Program is a component of the South Australian Ovine JD control program and is designed to:

1. Provide low disease risk assurance through Abattoir 500 and 150 status
2. Monitor the levels of the disease in a known infected stock
3. Alert producers to new infection.

In addition to voluntary inspections for JD in sheep in South Australia, South Australian producers can also request their sheep to be inspected when sending sheep at participating abattoirs interstate.

Dr Paskin said with the latest changes to the abattoir monitoring program in place, PIRSA is now working with the South Australian Sheep Advisory Group (SASAG) on alternative program proposals for managing JD in sheep.

“It is likely that new program arrangements will be in place by early June,” he said.

“PIRSA and TFI will also continue to have a close working relationship to support industry and provide products with a high level of quality assurance.”

“It is also important to note that there are no changes to the Enhanced Abattoir Monitoring program and producers will continue to receive results for the 20 other conditions such as arthritis, grass seed and pneumonia/pleurisy by post or email for those producers who have supplied their email address.”



For further information on the South Australian Johne's Disease Control program and the voluntary abattoir inspections, including inspection application forms, visit

www.pir.sa.gov.au/ojdcontrol

More information on the Enhanced Abattoir Monitoring program can be found at

www.pir.sa.gov.au/eas