



UNDERSTANDING CATTLE HEALTH DECLARATIONS

The Cattle Health Declaration is currently gaining significant exposure as a tool for producers to address biosecurity concerns. It's a document that allows producers to make an assessment of cattle they might be purchasing and the biosecurity risk those cattle may pose. The Cattle Health Declaration is starting to be requested by producers buying cattle from studs and through saleyards. For many producers biosecurity is a new concept so it's understandable that many producers have questions about the Cattle Health Declaration.

Be sure to check out the table over the page for a quick, easy to use guide on when to use a Cattle Health Declaration.

What is a Cattle Health Declaration and why should I ask for one when buying cattle?

The Cattle Health Declaration is a tool that can assist producers in assessing the biosecurity risks of new stock being introduced to your property. It is designed to be used when animals are being bought and sold. It allows sellers to provide buyers with additional information relating to the health of the animals they are bringing onto their property. It is separate to the National Vendor Declaration waybill (NVD) because the questions on the NVD relate primarily to food safety, whereas the Cattle Health Declaration is animal health related.

Prior to purchase or receipt of incoming agistment stock, producers should request a Cattle Health Declaration to gather further information relevant to the health of their new purchases or incoming agistment stock. This helps producers manage the health of incoming animals as well as their existing herd.

When should I send a Cattle Health Declaration with my cattle?

When selling cattle it is recommended that you send a Cattle Health Declaration along with your sale cattle in most instances.

If a person requests a Cattle Health Declaration then you should provide one prior to sale. Buyers actively managing animal health, participating in Johne's Beef Assurance Score (J-BAS) or trading in Johne's disease sensitive markets are likely going to want this document.

If you are sending cattle to a saleyard it is recommended to send a Cattle Health Declaration with your cattle to maximise your market opportunity.

How does the Cattle Health Declaration fit in with J-BAS?

If you are participating in J-BAS you should send and request this document as part of your risk assessment. Requesting this document when you buy cattle can provide additional information such as J-BAS level or if there is an increased risk of infection in the animals you are looking to buy. Having this information gives you the opportunity to manage the risk of Johne's disease in incoming animals.

Are Cattle Health Declarations mandatory?

The Cattle Health Declaration is not mandatory unless your cattle are Northern Territory bound. This is an entry requirement of the Northern Territory Government. If you do not send this document with your cattle they will not be able to move into the Northern Territory until one is completed.

If you don't provide a Cattle Health Declaration to buyers who require them to move the cattle after sale you could be limiting your markets.

When do I not need a Cattle Health Declaration?

If your cattle are going straight to the abattoir or to a feedlot, you will probably find they will not request a Cattle Health Declaration. The Declaration is for herd health management. Feedlots and abattoirs are more concerned with food safety issues so will be wanting to receive the NVD.

Where can I get a Cattle Health Declaration?

Cattle Health Declarations are available online at the Farm Biosecurity website (<http://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/toolkit/declarations-and-statements/>).

How do I fill out a Cattle Health Declaration?

Producers should answer the questions honestly. You do not need to test for any of the diseases on the Cattle Health Declaration but if you have done in the past you should describe your results on the form. Producers are making a declaration when filling out a Cattle Health Declaration. When the form asks for specific vaccinations or treatments it is asking if you have applied anything to the animals travelling to sale in the last six months.

If you are participating in J-BAS you should describe your J-BAS status in Question 6. Whilst the form says optional, it refers to the scheme of J-BAS being optional. If you have a J-BAS score you should record your score.

J-BAS MARKET ACCESS QUICK GUIDE

	Should I fill in a Cattle Health Declaration?	Do I need a J-BAS to trade into this market?	J-BAS status required
Sending cattle to a Northern Territory property or for live export	Yes – Mandatory	Yes	J-BAS 6 (to enter NT)
Sending cattle to slaughter to a Northern Territory abattoir	Yes – Mandatory	No	Not required
Sending cattle to a Western Australian property	Recommended	Yes	QLD / NT : J-BAS 7 NSW/SA/VIC/TAS : J-BAS 8
Sending cattle to Western Australia direct for export or slaughter	Recommended	Yes	All states : J-BAS 6
Sending cattle to a Western Australian property travelling via the Northern Territory	Yes – Mandatory (for entry into the NT)	Yes	QLD / NT : J-BAS 7 NSW/SA/VIC/TAS : J-BAS 8
Sending cattle to Western Australia for export or slaughter travelling via the Northern Territory	Yes – Mandatory (for entry into the NT)	Yes	All states : J-BAS 6
Sending cattle into NSW / QLD	Recommended	No (unless your buyer requests J-BAS)	Not required <i>Note: If you bring JD infected animals or animals you believe to be infected into Queensland or NSW, you must report this to the relevant authority.</i>
Sending cattle into VIC, TAS or SA	Recommended	No (unless your buyer requests J-BAS)	Market Driven
Sending cattle to saleyards	Recommended	Contact Agent	Contact Agent
Sending cattle live export from QLD or NSW	Recommended	No	Not required
Sending cattle direct to abattoir in QLD, NSW, VIC, SA or TAS	No	No	Not required
Sending cattle to feedlots	Recommended	Contact Agent /Feedlot	Not required

Disclaimer: This table is true and correct as of November 2017, for interstate cattle movements it is always recommended that the sender contact the relevant state prior to moving the cattle.

FILLING IN THE NATIONAL CATTLE HEALTH DECLARATION

Owner of cattle - Owner name and the place where the cattle are leaving from.

Details of other statutory documents relating to the movement - Write the serial number and details of your NVD being used for this movement.

Q1 If you are selling a mix of cattle owned and not owned by yourself since birth it is recommended that you fill in two separate Cattle Health Declarations.

Q2 Indicate which biosecurity plan template you have completed for your property.

Q3 If you have tested for pestivirus describe your results. You do not need to test for pestivirus to sell cattle. If you have never tested for pestivirus answer No to 3a and 3b.

Q4 If you have tested for EBL then indicate your result. You do not need to test for EBL unless your cattle are moving to Tasmania. If you have not tested for EBL write N/A.

Owner of cattle
(Full trading name)

Property/place where the journey commenced
(Address)

.....
(Address continued) (Town/suburb) (State) (Postcode)

Property Identification Code (PIC) of this property
This MUST be the PIC of the property that the stock is being moved from

Details of other statutory documents relating to this movement e.g. NVD
(Document type) (Document number) (Office of issue) (Expiry date)

Note: If NVD accompanying this declaration then you may go straight to question 1

Description of cattle

Number	Description (Breed, sex e.g. Hereford Cross Steers)	Brands or Earmarks
Total		

Consigned to
(Name of person or business)

.....
(Address) (Town/suburb) (State) (Postcode)

Destination (if different) of cattle
(Location address)

1. Has the owner stated above owned these cattle since birth?
Yes No

2. On the property stated above, has an on-farm biosecurity plan been implemented?
Yes No

If yes, which plan (e.g. Farm Biosecurity, LBN, BioCheck)

3a. Have these cattle been tested for the presence of pestivirus antigen? Yes No

If tested, were any cattle found to be persistently infected? Yes No

3b. Have these cattle been tested for the presence of pestivirus antibody? Yes No

If tested what percentage of the tested cattle were antibody positive?

4. Enzootic Bovine Leucosis (EBL) test result for animals being moved:

Date of test/...../.....

5. Are the cattle from an EBL accredited or certified free herd: Yes No

6. Are these cattle from a herd or property with an occurrence of Johne's disease (JD) in any susceptible species within the last five years?
Yes No Don't know J-BAS of (optional)

7. On the property stated above, have cattle been co-grazed with dairy cattle and/or sheep?
Yes No Don't know

8. Source herd has a negative JD test result: Check Test Sample Test

Date of test/...../.....

9. If dairy cattle, the consignment has a Dairy Assurance Score of:
Part A (herd base score) Part B (calf credits) Part C (total Dairy Score)

10. Treatments

Treatments	Product	Date of treatment within last 6 months
Drench		
Liver fluke treatment		
Other treatments (type)		

11. Current vaccinations for the cattle being moved (see explanatory note)

Clostridial vaccination (e.g. 5 in 1): Yes Clostridial vaccination (Botulism): Yes

Pestivirus vaccination: Yes Bovine ephemeral fever vaccination: Yes

Leptospira vaccination: Yes Vibrio vaccination: Yes

JD (Sillrum) vaccination: Yes

Other vaccinations (specify):

12. Any other relevant health information

DECLARATION (see explanatory notes for further information)

I
(Full name) (Full address)

.....
(Address continued) (Town/suburb) (State) (Postcode)

.....
(Address continued) (Town/suburb) (State) (Postcode)

declare that I am the owner or the person responsible for the husbandry of the cattle and that all the information in this document is true and correct. I also declare that I have read and understood all the questions that I have answered, that I have read and understood the explanatory notes, and that I have inspected the animals and deem them to be healthy, free of disease and fit to travel.

Signature* Date/...../20.....

*Only the person whose name appears above may sign this declaration, or make amendments which must be initialed.

Tel. no. (.....) Email

Q5 If you are moving cattle to Tasmania from a certified herd you do not need to test. If your herd has been free of EBL for 3 years and your herd is from VIC, SA, NSW (excluding former North Coast Livestock Health and Pest Authority or Qld (excluding the cattle tick infected zone) then you are considered free (but not certified). If you are unsure or from a zone that is excluded then answer no.

Q6 If your herd or the properties the cattle have come from have not had JD for the last 5 years answer No. If your herd or the properties the cattle have come from have had JD in the last 5 years answer Yes. If you are participating in J-BAS record your score in this section. If you choose not to participate in JBAS your score is J-BAS 0, but you do not need to record it. For more information relating to J-BAS visit <https://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/jd-cattle-tools/>

Q7 Indicate if your cattle have been co-grazed with dairy stock and/or sheep.

Q8 This question is **only applicable** to J-BAS 7 cattle or higher. If you are a J-BAS 6, record your status in Q6 as JBAS 6 and leave this question blank. If you are a J-BAS 7 you will need to complete a Check test (50 animals) by 30 June 2018, then every three years. If you are a J-BAS 8 you have completed a Sample test (201-300 animals), except in WA. You will then need to do a Check test every 3 years. For more information speak to the veterinarian arranging your testing (J-BAS 7 or higher only).

Q9 This is only relevant for dairy animals participating in the Dairy Score (beef herds leave blank). If dairy herds are unsure of their score they should contact Dairy Australia. If the cattle are not dairy leave this question blank.

Q10 & 11 treatments and vaccinations – if your herd have had any chemicals or vaccinations used on them in the **last 6 months** then record them in Q10 and 11.

Declaration: This section must only be completed by the owner or the person responsible for the husbandry of the cattle in the consignment.

The National Cattle Health Declaration (CHD) is different to the National Vendor Declaration (NVD) waybill. The NVD waybill relates to food safety whereas the CHD relates specifically to animal health. Producers should obtain and send a CHD when buying and selling cattle to manage animal health accordingly within their herds. It is also used to provide buyers with confidence in the health of the animals offered for sale. FOR MORE INFORMATION REGARDING THIS DOCUMENT REFER TO THE EXPLANATORY NOTES ON THE BACK OF THE CATTLE HEALTH DECLARATION. AVAILABLE HERE or www.farmlivestockbiosecurity.com.au under tool kit - declarations

