



January 2017

Dear Exhibitor

JOHNES DISEASE ACCREDITATION AT THE RED HILL SHOW

We are very lucky to have a thriving livestock component at The Red Hill Show and this really enhances the experience for all attending.

You may have noticed that over the past seven years the Red Hill Show now has accreditation for Johnes Disease, which means that the Show Committee and Stewards are doing everything they can to try to reduce the chance of spreading Johnes Disease while you attend the show. As you would be aware, Johnes Disease is a severe wasting disease caused by a bacterium called mycobacterium paratuberculosis. It is contagious between animals and the main avenue of spread is by healthy animals eating the faeces of infected animals. Often it can take years for the disease to show, so the animal carrying the disease can often look healthy for a long time before it is known to have the disease. This is why it is important to take extra precautions when attending shows.

There are ways of assessing for the existence of Johnes Disease in seemingly healthy animals which include faecal cultures in sheep and alpacas, and blood testing in cattle. These tests can be done alone or as part of a market assurance program (MAP). Those with MAP accreditation have undergone a risk assessment of their property and constant testing to look for Johnes in their animals. Properties undertaking MAP will have a different rating depending on how many negative tests they have done to prove their animals are a low risk of having Johnes Disease.

In sheep there is also a vaccine available that has been shown to reduce the amount of shedding of bacteria from infected animals, and therefore reduce the chance of spread. These measures are all ways of providing some level of assurance the animals are not harbouring Johnes Disease.

The Red Hill Show is still hoping to be inclusive with its livestock area and so doesn't have a minimum requirement when it comes to Johnes Disease testing or prevention. This means there are non-assessed animals present at the show.

The accreditation process involves housing assessed and non-assessed animals in different areas, having different loading ramps for assessed and non-assessed cattle, and disposing of bedding and faeces correctly to reduce the chance of exposure of animals. We do need your help with this.

What You Can Do to Assist:

- Bring feed and water containers that are high enough to prevent faeces getting into them. The requirements are:
 - Cattle - containers should be at least 45 cm off the ground
 - Sheep – at least 30cm off the ground
 - Alpaca – at least 45cm off the ground
- We would also request you observe the designated area to dispose of contaminated bedding while present at the show. This will be made obvious by the head stewards in each area on arrival as well.

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- Keep to the designated areas for your animals (which will be allocated by the Head Steward to ensure procedures are followed) unless in the common areas or the show ring. If you have non-assessed cattle only use the wash designated for non-assessed cattle and use the non-assessed loading ramp.
- It is very important that animals are tethered at all times while at the show (unless able to be penned).
- Don't let any animals eat the grass at any time but particularly while showing or participating in the grand parade.
- It is very important that any transport is thoroughly cleaned before bringing animals to the show.
- All sheep will need their feet cleaned of faecal material before going back into their pens.

The Head Steward of your section will also be available on the day to assist.

These are all requirements of the accreditation and so are also requirements of showing at the Red Hill Show. We thank you very much for helping us out by adhering to these requirements. If you have any questions regarding Johnes Disease or the above requirements please do not hesitate to call Dr Matthew Ray at Hastings Vet Clinic on 5979 1214.

Yours sincerely

Bec Davis
Executive Officer
For and on behalf of the Red Hill Show Committee