

Advancing Rural Queensland

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Protecting Queensland from OJD

Peak farm group AgForce is urging sheep producers to help keep Queensland free from the livestock wasting disease condition Ovine Johnes Disease (OJD).

A national discussion is underway at the moment to plan future management of the disease and producers can have their say on a range of options by completing an online survey.

Sheep and Wool president Richard Pietsch says AgForce supports the implementation of two zones to continue to protect Queensland's OJD status.

"AgForce Sheep & Wool has assessed the 'Future Nation Management of OJD 2012-2017' discussion paper and we support option two of the document," Mr Pietsch said.

"As OJD is currently not prominent in Queensland, it is critically important for our state to exist under a protected zone and option two allows for this."

Mr Pietsch said option two involves the implementation of two zones, a protected area and a OJD management area and would mirror the Bovine Johnes Management Scheme developed by the Animal Health Committee.

"Under option 2, abattoir monitoring would continue, as well as the use of sheep health statements which will both allow Queensland to remain an OJD free zone," Mr Pietsch said.

"AgForce will be making a formal submission to WoolProducers and the Sheepmeat Council before the deadline of 14 October to state our position."

The final decision will be made by Sheepmeat Council and WoolProducers for the states to implement by July 2012.

AgForce urges all sheep producers in Queensland to undertake the online survey at www.ojd.com.au

For comment, contact Richard Pietsch on 0429 629 375.

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Who is AgForce? AgForce represents thousands of Queensland broadacre producers who recognise the value in having a strong voice. AgForce leads the way to ensure agriculture's social, economic and environmental contribution is recognised by all levels of government. AgForce works alongside landholders, encourages and supports the next generation, builds industry partnerships and skills and promotes agriculture - for secure, sustainable, progressive and profitable food and fibre into the future.