

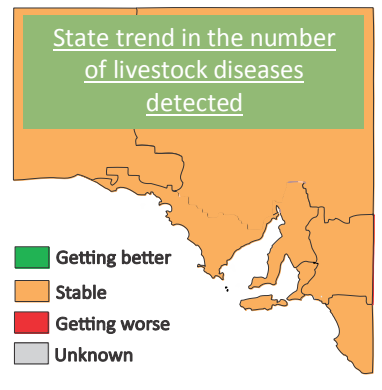
2016 State Report Card

Diseases affecting our livestock

Our livestock industries (farmgate value of \$1.85 billion in 2015–16) are vulnerable to a number of pests and diseases. These can reduce productivity, affect animal welfare, influence livestock trade and markets and threaten human health.

Livestock diseases can be caused by bacteria, viruses, fungi, protozoa, proteins or parasites, and can be introduced by contaminated materials (e.g. footwear, vehicles, plants or animals) or by the movement of infected animals.

Preventing the introduction and establishment of livestock diseases is a high priority in South Australia. [Biosecurity SA](#) conducts surveillance and enforces quarantine measures to reduce the number of diseases that enter South Australia and increase the likelihood of control if a disease or pest is detected.



State target
Limit the establishment of pests and diseases and reduce the impacts of existing pests

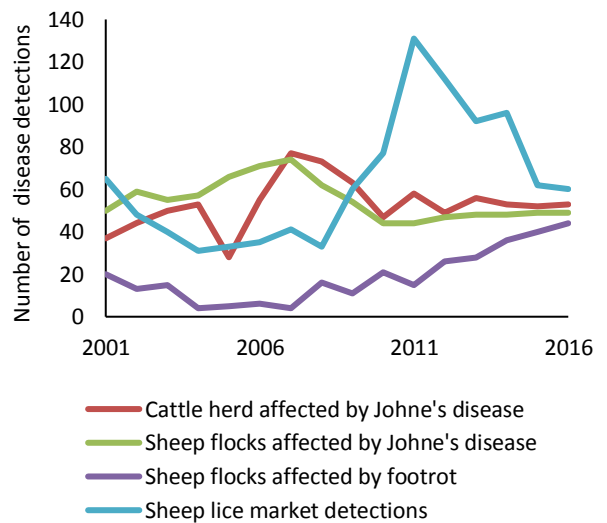
Trend (2001–16) Stable No major outbreaks of diseases have occurred

South Australia remains free of most high priority livestock pests and diseases. This is a major advantage to our livestock industries.

Livestock diseases of economic importance that are established in South Australia include Johne’s disease, a bacterial wasting disease of cattle, sheep and goats; sheep footrot, a contagious hoof infection; and sheep lice. The presence of these has been relatively stable since 2001 (see graph on right).

Detections of lice at sheep markets increased between 2008 and 2011, coinciding with increasing lice resistance to some pesticides and suspension of an effective pesticide due to human health concerns. Since 2011, additional resources have been dedicated to helping farmers manage lice and market detections are now decreasing.

Footrot increases with higher rainfall. During the Millennium Drought (1996–2010) incidents of footrot were reduced due to dry conditions. Since 2011, incidents have increased with higher rainfall.



Where we are at (2016) Good Most major livestock diseases and pests are not present in South Australia

Australia is free of most globally significant livestock diseases such as foot and mouth and mad cow disease, and scrapie. South Australia is also free of several diseases recorded in other parts of Australia such as blue tongue, anthrax and Hendra virus (in horses).

The impacts of livestock diseases and pests that do occur in South Australia are relatively low. Johne’s Disease currently affects about 22 per cent of our dairy herds and less than one per cent of beef herds and sheep flocks. Eradication of Johne’s Disease from individual herds and flocks is extremely difficult and often it is more cost effective to control the spread of the disease by the strategic use of vaccines. Less than one per cent of our sheep flocks are affected by footrot.

Ongoing investments in biosecurity will be required to prevent major livestock diseases establishing in South Australia, ensuring our farmers can continue to produce [premium livestock in our clean environment](#).

Reliability of information ★★★★★ Excellent

Further information:
[Technical information for this report card](#), [Livestock health in South Australia](#)

