

# J ACTION **JOHNE'S**



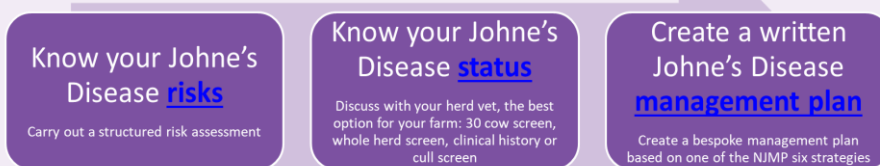
**Johne's Disease**  
**Getting Started - Know Your Risks**

## Understanding the benefits of continually controlling the disease

### HOW TO START.....?

#### Work together with your Accredited Johne's Veterinary Advisor (BAJVA) to create a bespoke management plan for your herd

- Farmers and their BAJVA need to know the risk status for Johne's disease to enable development of a robust plan to keep the disease out, or manage the infection if present
- An effective assessment of both risk of entry and spread of the disease should be carried out by a BAJVA as part of a farm visit
- Work in partnership with your BAJVA to create a bespoke structured Johne's disease management plan which is reviewed annually.
- A signed Johnes Disease Assessment Declaration is now a requirement of the farm Red Tractor assurance audit.



### WHERE TO START.....?

#### Identifying Herd Johne's Status

- It is important to understand the dynamics of Johne's disease and how it is transmitted so that you can assess your farms risks of entry and spread.
- Once the Johne's status has been identified it is good practice to put in place practical on-farm management strategies and tools to assist in the eradication of the disease. The AJG has outlined 6 strategies for use in control on dairy farms – one of which should form the core of your management plan.
- Engage with your management plan and work in close partnership with your veterinary advisor. Prioritise what is achievable to reduce the impact of the disease and review your plan annually. The 'easy wins' will naturally lead into a progressive control and long-term commitment to eradicating the disease: by dealing with one challenge it will naturally lead to the next.....

## Understanding the benefits of continually controlling the disease

### WHY TEST.....?

**You don't have to see clinical cases of Johne's on farm for it to be present**

#### JOHNE'S DISEASE CAUSES:-

- **a reduction in yield and has a greater association with other diseases**, such as mastitis, lameness and high somatic cell count. This increases the cost of production and reduces the yield of saleable milk.
- **increased risk of premature culling**, culling for SCC caused by Johne's gives no scope to cull for herd improvement
- **Increased economic losses** due to culling poor condition cows with a low cull value
- **major obstruction to achieving higher standards of animal welfare**. Infected herds pose a risk to other herds through the sale of stock and herd dispersals.
- **Increase in antibiotic use on farm....**Johne's disease is a **contributor to antibiotic use on farms**. Reducing Johne's disease will assist in efforts to reduce antibiotic use on farms and reduce the risk of antimicrobial resistance.

### WHAT TO TEST.....?

**Testing will help determine whether there is evidence of Johne's disease**

#### JOHNE'S TESTING WILL:-

- **help to establish herd status by actively seeking out the disease**, giving as much confidence as possible in assigning the herd status
- **give a better understanding of Johnes disease on farm**, the more frequent the testing the greater the understanding

**There are several testing options available to establish herd status.**

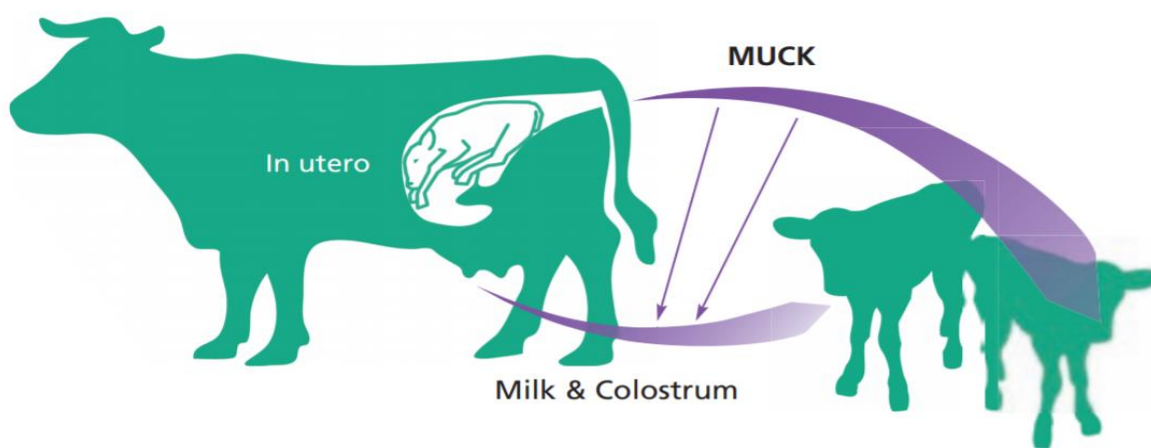
**Testing methods approved by the Action Johnes Group include:-**

- **Cull Cow Screening**
- **Targeted 30 cow screen**
- **Whole Herd Test**

**Work closely with your BAJVA to decide on the appropriate testing method**

Johne's disease is an incurable bacterial disease caused by the organism *Mycobacterium Avium* subspecies *paratuberculosis* (MAP). Infection results in a thickening of the intestinal wall. This prevents the animal from successfully absorbing nutrients causing the animals to lose weight, scour and eventually die. Animals with Johne's disease are likely to be culled earlier and are also likely to be affected by other conditions, including chronic mastitis, lameness, and high somatic cell counts.

## Understanding the spread of Johne's disease between animals



Johne's infection is mainly caused by calves ingesting dung through contaminated bedding, udders, or on dirty buckets of colostrum or milk. 80% of Johne's infections occur within the first month of life. Good hygiene and calving time management is crucial.

### ACTION GROUP ON JOHNES

The Action Group on Johne's is an open forum for industry stakeholders interested in tackling Johne's disease, jointly funded by AHDB Dairy and milk purchaser members.

The National Johne's Management Plan (NJMP) was developed by the Action Group on Johne's to help manage and then reduce incidence of Johne's disease in dairy cattle. The NJMP is not a national one size fits all approach, it is a co-ordinated initiative for the benefit of the industry and about choosing control strategies that meet the needs and aspirations of individual farmers.