

Steps required to complete the Johne's Declaration

To satisfy the requirements of the National Johne's Management Plan (NJMP), there are three steps that should be completed on-farm with a BCVA Accredited Johne's Veterinary Advisor (BAJVA):

1. Know your Johne's disease risks

Farmers and their BAJVA need to know their 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 the risks of entry and spread in a herd should be carried out by a BAJVA as part of a farm visit, as it is important to get a good feel for what happens on the farm on a day to day basis in terms of biosecurity (to prevent disease entry) and biocontainment (to prevent disease spread).

2. Know your Johne's disease status

Farmers and their BAJVA also need to know whether there is evidence of Johne's disease on farm or not. Testing to establish herd status involves actively seeking out disease if it is there to give as much confidence as possible in assigning the herd status.

There are several testing options available to establish herd status; they are shown in order of reliability from low to high:

- **Cull cow screening:** cull cows with issues such as high cell count, low yields, lameness and poor fertility are most likely to have Johne's disease. The next time that a cull batch is identified on the farm, take blood and/or milk samples on a routine visit for ELISA testing.
- **Targeted 30 cow screen:** identify 30 cows most likely to have Johne's disease (high cell counts, low yields, and poor doers). Blood or milk can be used – herds that are milk recording can be tested automatically, using their milk records to select the 30 target cows. The 30 cow screen shows a 95% chance of correctly categorising the herd as infected or non-infected.
- **Whole herd screen:** when a 30 cow screen is not enough, this is useful for confirmation if the herd is known to have Johne's disease and also for identification of infected cows within the herd.

Selecting the most appropriate test to establish herd status is based on the BAJVAs clinical judgement.

3. Create a written Johne's disease management plan

There are six control strategies within the NJMP, one of the six strategies will suit every farm. The farmer and BAJVA should select the most appropriate strategy for the farm, taking into consideration farmer aspiration and the reality on farm. The control strategies are:

1. Biosecurity Protect and Monitor
2. Improved Farm Management
3. Improved Farm Management and Strategic Testing
4. Improved Farm Management Test and Cull
5. Breed to Terminal Sire
6. Firebreak Vaccination

Within the chosen strategy there will then be a list of tasks which will need to be undertaken to make that strategy work, these should be included by the BAJVA in a written Johne's disease management plan specific for the farm.

1. Risk assessment to know your Johne's disease risks



2. Testing to establish your Johne's disease status



3. Create a written Johne's disease management plan

IMPORTANT NOTES

- Additional information on the control strategies and the NJMP is available on the **Action Johne's website and within the BAJVA Technical Manual.**
- A **BCVA Accredited Johne's Veterinary Advisor (BAJVA)** is a veterinary surgeon who has re-validated their BAJVA status or completed the online BCVA training modules since 13th August 2019. **BAJVA numbers** can be found on the Action Johne's website.
- **ALL THREE** steps must be completed and understood by the farmer and BAJVA, **within the 12 months prior** to the date of signature on the declaration.
- These steps should be reviewed and completed **annually.**
- Bulk milk testing is **NOT acceptable** under the NJMP and is not enough to establish farm status.
- Only **ONE control strategy** should be used at any time, but the most appropriate strategy may change over time.
- The declaration is a **certificate endorsed by the Veterinary Defence Society (VDS)**, by signing the document as a veterinary surgeon you are confirming that you are a BAJVA and have complied with the requirements of the NJMP.