

GB Dairy Industry Johne's Progress Report for 2025

This factsheet describes progress towards the aspirational goal outlined in Phase 3 of the National Johne's Management Plan (NJMP) for the GB dairy industry. The full report is available on the Action Group on Johne's website.

What is the aspirational goal?

As part of Phase 3 of the NJMP, the Action Group on Johne's introduced a 'National Aspirational Goal' whereby the GB dairy sector will aim to achieve a national Johne's Control Index (JCI) of 5.5 or less by 2030.

The JCI is the average of individual herd Average Test Values (ATV) of all herds that are testing cows for JD. An individual herd ATV is the average of the test results of tested cows withing a herd.

How is data on the Johne's Control Index collected?

Data from herds which use the IDEXX individual milk ELISA (JD milk test) is collated by PAN Livestock Services Ltd, via National Milk Records (NMR) and Cattle Information Service (CIS).

In 2025, data from non-milk recording herds was included in the JCI calculation for the first time. Data from 3,512 milk recording herds and 1,053 non-milk recording herds was included, totalling 4,565 herds (out of an estimated total 7,000 dairy herds in GB).

Trend in the Johne's Control Index

Based on milk-recording herds in the National JD Tracker database, the national JCI has a consistent downwards trend from 8.6 in 2020 to 6.1 in 2025, apart from a small increase in 2024.

The improvement in just one year, from 2024 to 2025, for the milk-recording herds, is striking. The JCI for these herds fell from 6.7 to 6.1.

Including non-milk-recording herds in the calculation gives a higher JCI, at 6.5, but this is still an improvement on the 2024 JCI.

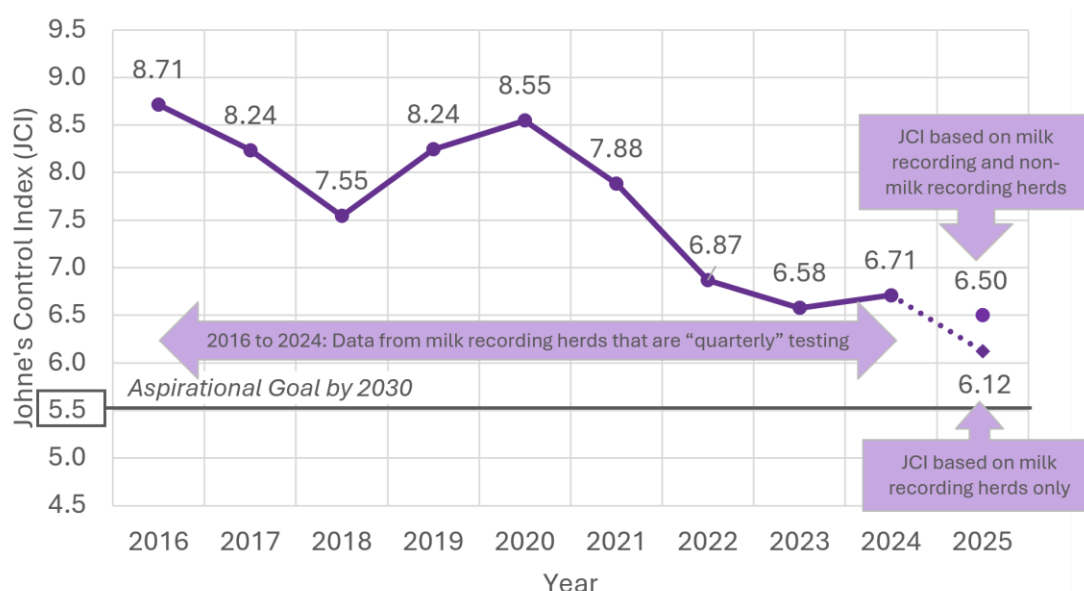


Figure 1. JCI in the National JD Tracker database between 2016 and 2025.

How many herds in GB have an ATV of 5.5 or less?



The % of milk recording herds with an ATV of 5.5 or less has improved from 19% in 2020 to 50% in 2025, apart from a slight decrease in 2024. The improvement in just one year from 2024 to 2025 is striking. The % of milk recording herds with an ATV of 5.5 or less improved from 40% to 50%.

Including non-milk-recording herds gives a lower % of herds with an ATV of 5.5 or less, at 46%, but this is still an improvement from 2024.

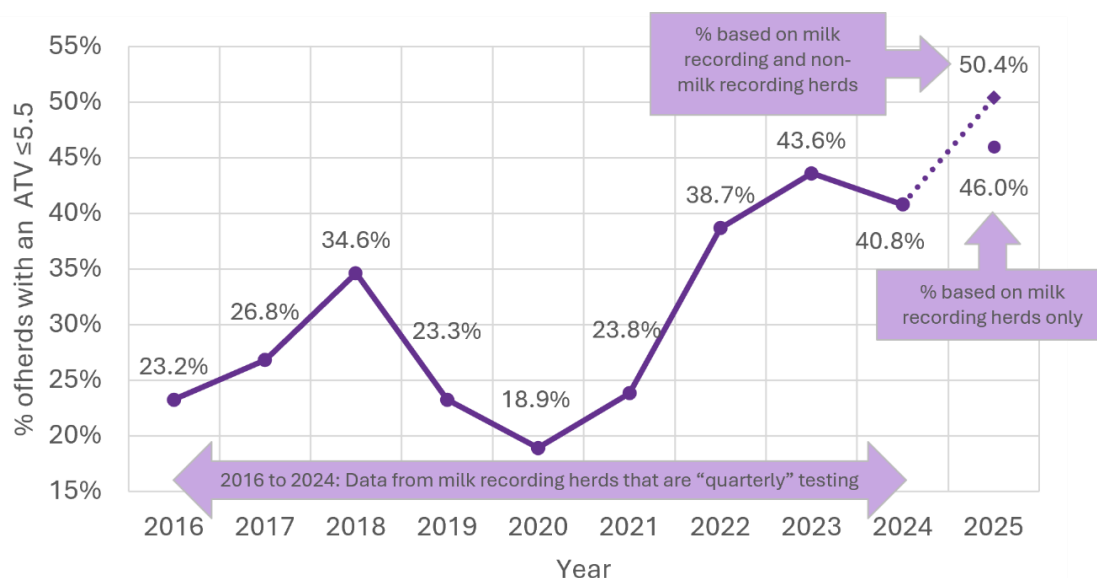


Figure 2. Annual values for the % of all herds with an ATV of 5.5 or less between 2016 and 2025.

Do herds which test more frequently have lower ATVs?

The JCI is lower among herds that test cows for JD more frequently. Herds that tested once in the year had a JCI of 7.25, compared with a JCI of 5.71 for herds that tested four or more times in the year.

Testing more frequently does not directly cause a reduction in a herd's ATV. However, testing more frequently is an indication that the farmer is taking steps to control JD in their herd and frequent testing is an important tool that identifies the cows most likely to be infected and infectious to others. Knowing individual cow's JD status as accurately and as timely as possible is an essential requirement in effective Johne's management in the herd.

Updates to JD Tracker benchmarks

The JD Tracker benchmarks provide meaningful targets for herds that are engaging with the NJMP. The benchmarks underly the 'traffic light' graphics on JD tracker platforms like InterHerd+ and HerdWise.

The benchmarks are based on data from milk-recording herds with exactly four whole herd tests in each calendar year.

All JD Tracker parameters have improved since 2020. This trend continued from 2024 to 2025 meaning that the JD Tracker benchmarks will duly be updated in all platforms. To view the individual trend graphs for these parameters and details of the updated benchmarks, please see the full report which is available on the Action Group on Johne's website.

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