

## Update on the Ontario Johne's Education and Management Assistance Program

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Two topics:

1. Johne's Program
2. Animal Health and Veterinary Drug Oversight Review



## Johne's Education and Management Assistance Program for Ontario Herds



## Johne's Education and Management Assistance program for Ontario Dairy Herds

### Four components:

1. **Education** and extension about disease and biosecurity for producers, veterinarians and advisors.
2. Opportunity for producers to **test** all lactating cows for Johne's on one DHI test day
3. An annual **Risk Assessment and Management Plan (RAMP)**; and
4. The **permanent removal** of high titre animals (those with a Johne's titre greater than 1.0).



## Ontario's Johne's Program

- We know this approach works.....
  - Anecdotal herd reports here over the last 10 years
  - Scientific evaluation from other jurisdictions
  - Pilot and ongoing Ph. D research project (Dr. Ulrike Sorge) here show a reduction in prevalence of infection between 2005 and 2008 testings



## Ontario's Johne's Program

### TEACHING PRINCIPLES Johne's Five – Point Plan

1. Test cows to establish likelihood and intensity of **HERD** infection.
2. Allow no manure in the mouths of baby calves.
3. Feed colostrum from only a single cow to a each calf.
4. Feed calves uncontaminated milk from low risk or test negative cows, or uncontaminated milk replacer.
5. Cull high titre/fecal shedding Johne's cows as soon as possible and before they are rebred



## Johne's Disease Activities in Ontario

- Who designed the program?
- **Johne's Disease Industry Working Group**
  - Breeds (Holstein, Jersey, Guernsey), DFO, CanWest DHI, PDO, OABP, OCA, CLGA, OMAFRA, OVC (University of Guelph).
  - Developed a proposal at DFO's request
  - Funded by DFO (2.1M) plus 100,000 from industry groups
- **Implementation** underway since going to the DFO Board in July 2009



## Johne's Education and Management Assistance program for Ontario Dairy Herds

### Reimbursement available to producers

### \$8 per cow rebate for whole herd testing provided.....

1. Animals permanently identified
2. High titre cows removed
3. Risk assessment done
4. Testing paid for

(test can be serum (AHL) or milk ELISA (CanWest DHI), rebate remains \$8 per cow)



## Johne's Education and Management Assistance program for Ontario Dairy Herds

### Funding for the program for producers

- From DFO
  - \$ 2.1 million
- From industry organizations (OABP, CanWest DHI, PDO, Holstein Canada, Jersey Canada/Ontario, Guernsey Canada/Ontario, OCA)
  - \$100,000 over 4 years



## Johne's Education and Management Assistance program for Ontario Dairy Herds

### Timelines

Program available January 2010

Expected duration, to include one round of testing for all producers, 4 years

RAMP – annual, every year, starting in 2010



## Veterinary Activities in the Johne's Program

- **Interpret test results** if testing is being done. Each herd has the opportunity to test once during the 4 year program. Testing is voluntary. You need to "sell" it if you want to see it!
- **Conduct the RAMP** with the client once annually. Bill producers directly as you would for routine herd-health consultations. It is typical for an initial RAMP to take one hour, but this will depend on the issues encountered. Subsequent annual reviews may take less time.
- **Make written recommendations** for changes on the farm via the RAMP document.
- **Sign disposal forms** for cows with titres 1.0 or higher once they are disposed of, if done on-farm by the producer through burial or composting. (Renderer's will verify the removal of cows they pick up)
- **Fax** the completed RAMP to the Johne's Project Co-ordinator



## Animal Health Assessment and Veterinary Drug Use Review


### EU audit 2009 of Canadian dairy industry for Dairy Export Marketing

- Credit for ongoing efforts
  - Livestock Medicines certification,
  - provincial regulatory control of Livestock Medicine outlets for OTC sales,
  - development of national Prudent Use Guidelines for Dairy Cattle
  - and so on,

### BUT

- Want proof of ongoing oversight – particular concern about Extra-Label use of veterinary drugs (ELUD)
- Need to prove that there is veterinary oversight of animal health and veterinary drug use on Ontario dairy farms



 **Herd Health and Veterinary Medicine Use Policy**  
Annual Declaration for Ontario Dairy Producers

Name of Producer: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dairy Premise location: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 DPO Licence Number: \_\_\_\_\_

I have an ongoing relationship for animal health and advisory services with the veterinarian identified below.

Signature of Producer: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_


**Veterinarian's Declaration:**  
 I am a veterinarian providing service to the dairy herd described above.

I attest to the following:

As of this date, I have visibly observed the general health status of the cattle on this farm and found them to be healthy or receiving satisfactory care and treatment for common health conditions, as prescribed.

I have reviewed and discussed the use of veterinary medicines on this farm with the dairy producer or herd manager, whoever is responsible for the treatment of animals. We agree that veterinary medicines will always be used according to label directions, unless a veterinarian with a valid veterinarian-patient relationship (VPCR) as described in the provincial Veterinarians Act has provided written directions to do otherwise.

Name of Veterinarian: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of veterinarian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



**Veterinarian's Declaration:**


I am a veterinarian providing service to the dairy herd described above.

I attest to the following:

As of this date, I have visibly observed the general health status of the cattle on this farm and found them to be healthy or receiving satisfactory care and treatment for common health conditions, as prescribed.

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Name of Veterinarian: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of Veterinarian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



Johne's Program RAMP and Animal Health/Veterinary Drug Oversight:

- Goal is to merge these into one annual herd health consultation/visit between producer and herd veterinary practitioner



What's in it for veterinary practitioners?

- This is your opportunity to:
- Work proactively to prevent Johne's Disease spread and ensure safe effective medicine use. Strengthen your role in the milk production quality chain.
  - Expand your herd health program to include calf and heifer assessments and medicine use review
  - Initiate an ongoing annual program
  - Improve overall calf health – prevention of calf diarrhea and nutritional problems may be of more immediate benefit to your clients!
  - Assist herd owners that have been struggling with Johne's Disease, yet haven't had the initiative to make progress.






The Ontario Milk Act says:  
 "Milk from healthy cows"



Ontario Dairy Farmers:

- Doing it now, Just need to be able to prove it.
- Need to be proactive to head off any risks



For more information:

**For more information contact:**

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[www.johnes.ca](http://www.johnes.ca) (after November 30<sup>th</sup>!)

