



KERNOW
DAIRY VET SERVICES

Newsletter September 2019

Johne's Disease Special

01208 76403

It's that time of year again where the majority of milk buyers that have signed up to the National Johnes Management plan need to have their farmers Johnes declaration signed.

To do this we need:

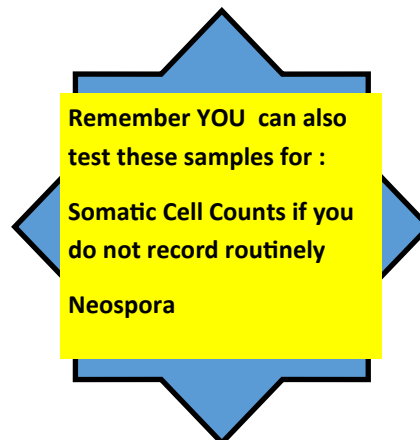
- ◆ your herd status.
- ◆ to discuss a control strategy there are SIX to choose from which is stated in your written Johnes's disease management plan



Some dairy clients are monitoring cows for milk antibodies levels on a quarterly basis using NMR herdwise or similar. For those not signed up to this we have to do ad hoc testing. Obviously in Cornwall we have issues with TB test interference, so we would advise that you test animals immediately before the TB test or wait until at least 6 weeks preferably longer after the TB test. Blood antibody tests can be used if cows are dry but obviously this is more involved.

Control strategy

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.



Article written by Dr Katy Hawksworth MRCVS

Katy is one of several Johnes's advisors within the practice (Phil, Amy, Ron, Ben and Serena are also accredited) she has recently become a TB advisory service advisor. Phone to book your free visit.

Free Dairy Workshop 7pm at the KFE Building Bodmin

19th September – Transition cow management – Getting it right to reduce ketosis related disease eg fatty liver, LDAs, increase milk yield and maximise fertility.

Phone the practice to book your place and your free pasty supper

Please do not hesitate to call us on 01208 76403. Office hours 8.30am-5.30pm Mon-Fri and 8.30am-12pm Saturday and we have vets available 24 hours a day.



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Johnes Overview

Incurable bacterial disease caused by Mycobacterium avium paratuberculosis MAP. Causing thickening of the gut lining, and malabsorption of nutrients ultimately resulting in wasting and scour. The age at which animals show clinical signs is variable depending on infectious dose and management system we have seen cases in animals ranging from 12 months to 10 plus years. The disease is found in Cattle, sheep, goats deer and rodents. The bacteria are able to survive for prolonged periods, on pasture, slurry and dung.

Why is it important.

- Financial losses in infected herds £850.00 worth of milk in test positive cows.

Animals are less productive, increased cull rates increased risk of other diseases lameness, mastitis. This may be seen without the classic signs of wasting and scours.

- Public health concerns

Possible implication with Crohnes disease, MAP bacteria found in milk and surface water.

- Welfare implications

Increased cull rates , increased use of antibiotics and mortality.

- No cure for affected animals

Testing

Reliability of testing will be improved by quarterly testing, antibody levels can fluctuate within the animals life time and with yield; and can be negative in the terminal stages.

It is important to correctly identify samples. Remember blood or faeces tests can be used if you need to recheck.

Johnes Risk Factors

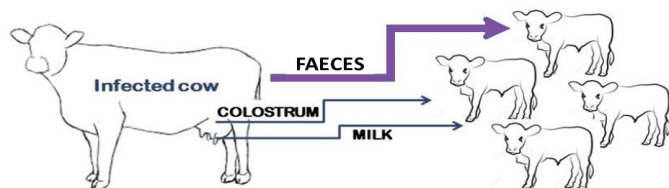
- Buying in stock. Especially multiple sources
- Sheep on keep.
- Poor wildlife control-rabbits
- Overstocked calving sheds and inability to segregate test positive animals.
- Feeding pooled milk and colostrum from animals that are test positive or of unknown status.
- Contaminated feed and water, ponds.
- In herds with a high level of prevalence 14% of animals under 2 years can shed infection, calves can infect each other. Experimentally even adults can acquire infection. Shedding can be intermittent by infected animals.

Johnes Control

These will be specific to each farm depending on the level of infection, farm aspiration, the policy for sourcing replacements and practicality.

Generally the aim is to reduce the risk of young calves under 3 months old coming across infected faeces, either directly or indirectly, (milk and colostrum) along with a breeding and culling programme.

Understanding the spread of Johnes's Disease between animals



Johnes's disease infection is mainly caused by calves ingesting faeces through contaminated bedding, udders, teats or on dirty buckets of colostrum or milk. Much less commonly the disease can be acquired in the womb or later in life.

80% of Johnes's Disease infections occur within the first month of life



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