



National Johne's Management Plan

DEADLINE: 31st OCTOBER 2018

The National Johne's Management Plan (NJMP) launched in 2015 and aims to reduce the incidence of Johne's disease in the UK dairy herd. Farmers are encouraged to work with their vet to develop a written control plan, **signed by both vet and farmer**. For many producers - such as those supplying Graham's, Muller and Yew Tree, this will be **compulsory** - with the deadline for signed declarations the **31st October 2018**.

What Is Johne's Disease?

- Johne's is a chronic, progressive disease of the gut, caused by infection with specific bacteria. It results in thickening of the gut wall, leading to reduced nutrient absorption, weight loss, scour and eventual death.
- The disease is spread commonly through ingestion of infected faeces. Infection of calves in the womb or via colostrum plays a much smaller but nevertheless important role.
- Animals under 6 months of age are most susceptible to infection.
- The disease takes a long time to develop, with infected animals not showing signs of disease for 2-4 years.
- Infected animals can appear healthy, but act as a source of infection for the rest of the herd, before going on to develop disease themselves.
- Subclinical signs of disease include **reduced fertility, reduced milk yields, increased SCC and culling rates**. Just because you haven't seen a clinical case, doesn't mean it isn't there.

Why should I care?

Reducing the level of disease or making improvements to keep Johne's out of a herd:

- Reduces production losses, making herds more efficient
- Improves animal health status, a benefit for selling and showing purposes.
- Ensures compliance with milk processors standards and meets red tractor recommendations

What will it involve?

Farmers and vets will work together to assess current herd status:

- For herds that are routinely testing for Johne's, a review of recent (last 12 months) test results can be performed
- For herds that haven't tested recently, discussion with your vet will decide on the most appropriate animals to test

A risk assessment of disease spread or entry will also be performed, allowing a disease reduction/prevention plan to be created for each farm.

With 27 processors signed up to the scheme, look out for information from your milk buyers.

Please contact us as early as possible to ensure all plans are in place before the **October 31st deadline**.

Further information can be found at www.actionjohnesuk.org

A Stirling dairy farmer's daughter, Jennifer graduated from Edinburgh in 2014 and worked in Cumbria as a 100% farm vet with a good mix of dairy, beef and sheep clients ever since. Her veterinary interests include youngstock management, infectious diseases and sheep. With a very active personality, Jennifer enjoys running, cycling and hill walking, and having exhausted the Lake District fells, she has come back to Scotland to tackle the Munros. To our delight she also enjoys baking to balance her exercising hobbies, we're hoping some of these cakes reach the office! ☺

MEET THE NEW VETS

JENNIFER HUTCHISON



JOCK McINTOSH



From a wool sheep and beef property in south eastern Australia, Jock graduated in 2014 from Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga, Australia. Initially working in central NSW Aus, he worked mostly with beef cattle and horses. Moving to the UK with his vet partner in September 2016 they have explored the UK through working in a variety of practices and they enjoyed their time in Scotland so much they were eager to return. Outside work Jock enjoys rugby and cycling and is looking forward to meeting you all.

ATTENTION BEEF CLIENTS: POOR EARLY SCAN RESULTS? THERE'S STILL TIME...

The extremely wet start followed by sudden prolonged heat has resulted in many severely hard poached field surfaces for grazing. As a result of this we are seeing a lot of bulls go lame from the harsh surface, whilst a mildly lame bull may still be serving cattle, the stress of lameness can reduce sperm viability and result in a bull being sub-fertile resulting in MORE EMPTY COWS.

A sub-fertile bull is a bull that has a low healthy sperm count, he may be seen working and whilst getting some cows in a calf many of the cows he serves will repeat. The SAC has estimated that 20-30% of beef bulls are sub-fertile, and using these bull results in long drawn out inefficient calving periods alongside increase barren cow culls.

What can you do about this?

Pregnancy can be detected from 4 weeks using an ultrasound scanner and we advise booking a visit to scan cows/heifers early if you have any doubts about your bull's fertility. Scanning by one of our vets costs only £3.10/head and not only do you get accurate results but we also take the time to discuss your fertility issues, give advice if wanted and can prescribe treatments for any animals that require. Should you have other jobs needing done at the same time we can allow extra time for this and you will save on extra visit fees.

BENEFITS OF SCANNING EARLY

- ❖ Identify pregnant or empty cows to allow altering groups reducing the number of bulls needed
- ❖ Confirm if a bull is working and free up bulls that are working to catch cows missed by a sub/infertile bull
- ❖ Get accurate calving dates: fetuses <12wks old can be MUCH more accurately aged
- ❖ Identify cystic/problem cows that can then be either treated or marked for cull
- ❖ Early diagnosis of empty healthy cows means synchronisation protocols can be used to aid catch-up and potentially still get cows in calf within your calving season

SYNCHRONIZATION

Cows and heifers may be synchronized to reduce time to get in calf and synchronization can be used with either AI (e.g. where your bull has been found sub-fertile) or a known high fertility bull with appropriate Cow:Bull ratio.

The most time sensitive and effective protocol used is;

- **Day 0: Inject 2.5 ml Receptal and insert PRID**
- **Day 6: Inject 2ml Estrumate**
- **Day 7 : Remove PRID**
- **Bull available or AI fixed time at 56 hours**

This is known as a PRID-sync and the practice offer a discounted rate on the drugs involved when bought as a package/head.

Alternatively synchronization can be done with less handlings using various other protocols and tailored to your situation. , please speak to a farm vet if interested.

BULL FERTILITY EXAMINATION

If you are only using one bull and not achieving over 65% of calves in the first 3 weeks of the calving period the bull you are using could be sub-fertile. **If you are using multiple bulls in a big group of cows' sub-fertility can be masked as one bull can compensate for others**, where this occurs 65% of calves should still be born in the first 3 weeks so if not you can expect one or more of the bulls is likely to be sub-fertile.

Bull fertility should be checked annually on all bulls 6-8 weeks prior to the breeding season, however can be done at any time if you are concerned; identifying infertile bulls now means they can easily be fattened and culled for the best price. A good crush is required for restraint of the bull in order to carry out the exam. Bulls should be rested for 24-48 hours before exam.

COST: £95+VAT for 1 bull, £65+VAT for subsequent bulls on the same visit

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