



**milking**  
TIMES

# Johne's Disease Risk Assessment Toolbox

Source: Emily McDonald, Industry Development Coordinator

Johne's Disease (JD) is both production limiting and a threat to the public's perception of dairy food safety. Working with our technical advisers and the University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Alberta Milk has developed a voluntary education and awareness program to help you reduce the risk of introducing JD into your herd and limit the spread of the disease among your animals. A JD Risk Assessment (RA) is the first step in managing that risk.

A risk assessment is a questionnaire designed to examine those management practices actually being used (or not being used) on your farm that may impact the introduction and spread of JD. Completion of the risk assessment will lead to an agreement between you and your eligible veterinarian to design a herd-specific JD Management Plan. This plan will identify best management practices to be implemented on your farm to reduce the risk of MAP entering the herd, or spreading within the herd if already present, as cost-effectively as possible. An eligible herd veterinarian is one who has participated in a special orientation and training session and is prepared to deliver this initiative on-farm.

Your on-farm RA starts with very basic questions the herd veterinarian will likely already know the answers to about your farm. As you move through the RA with your veterinarian you will look at your pre-weaned heifer's area, then weaned and first calving heifers, on to the calving area, through the dry cows and finishing up with the lactating cows. Listed below are sample questions included in the on-farm RA in which you will be scored upon:

## Section 1: General

Date of last JD Herd RA (yy mm dd):  
Type of housing for milking cows? Free stall  
Tie stall/Stanchion Loose Housing

Number of: Lactating Cows: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dry Cows: \_\_\_\_\_ Breeding Bulls: \_\_\_\_\_  
Pre-weaned Heifers: \_\_\_\_\_  
Weaned to First Calving Heifers: \_\_\_\_\_  
Bull Calves: \_\_\_\_\_



## Section 2: Pre-weaned Heifers

What is the source of colostrum fed to calves?

- Calves are fed colostrum pooled from more than one cow.
- Some calves may be given colostrum from an animal other than their dam.
- Calves are only given colostrum from their own mother.
- All calves are only provided pasteurized colostrum and/or colostrum replacement.

## Section 3: Weaned calves to first calving heifers

What is the risk that weaned or bred heifers may be exposed to cows, cow manure or runoff?

- Heifers share pens or pasture with lactating or dry cows.
- Heifers are housed near cows for variable periods of time with some direct (fenceline) contact with cows, AND/OR share the same handling system, AND/OR are exposed to cow manure via runoff or splashing.
- Heifers are housed near cows for only a short time with no direct contact or exposure to cow manure via runoff or splashing.
- Heifers are never housed with or near cows and have no exposure to cow manure runoff or splashing.

## Section 4: Calving Area

What opportunity do newborn calves have to nurse their dam?

- Over 50 per cent of newborn calves nurse the cow, are left with the cow more than four hours or the owner purposely leaves the calves to nurse.

## wanted

Wanted to buy, two week old up to 250 lb. bull calves for good price.  
Phone 403-380-0124.

Holstein feeders.  
Phone 403-553-4023.

I'm looking for advice to solve a problem with fleas on calves. Does anyone have a solution?  
Phone 403-635-1608.

## New Entrants Assistance Program

Alberta Milk will be accepting applications for the New Entrants Assistance Program until March 31, 2011. Please go to [albertamilk.com](http://albertamilk.com) or call the Alberta Milk office at 1-877-361-1231 for further information.

