



services

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One Last Push to Meet this Year's Goal!

Source: Emily McDonald, Industry Development Coordinator

To date, approximately 30 per cent of Alberta dairy producers have completed an on-farm Johne's Disease Risk Assessment (RA) with their herd health veterinarian. This is great progress so far; however we would like your participation to reach the goal of 50 per cent of producers enrolled by December 31, 2011. Now that the crops are off and winter weather is here, it will be much easier to spend some extra time with your veterinarian to complete your on-farm RA. The RA only takes about one hour to complete and a rebate is available to cover your veterinarian's time in completing it. The RA also includes your veterinarian collecting six manure samples to test for the Johne's bacteria at no extra charge to you. So at your next herd health visit, notify your veterinarian that you would like your Johne's RA done at the same time!

Once you've completed your RA, you and your veterinarian will discuss a herd-specific Johne's Disease Management Plan for your farm. This plan consists of one, two or three best management practices to be implemented on your farm to reduce the risk of Johne's Disease entering the herd or spreading within the herd if already present as cost-effectively as possible.

Nearly all dairy veterinarians in Alberta have participated in the Alberta Johne's Disease Initiative special orientation and training sessions and are eligible to conduct the risk assessment. Please call Emily McDonald 780-577-3307 or check Alberta Milk's website: albertamilk.com/johnes/johnesinitiative.aspx for a list of the eligible veterinarians.

Remember: the spread of Johne's disease (JD) in herds can be prevented when the following points are recognized:

- The bacteria (MAP) which causes JD is mainly spread through manure.
- An infected cow can shed billions of organisms into the environment for years prior to showing any clinical signs of the disease.
- Calves are the most easily infected.
- A small amount of manure is all it takes to infect a calf.
- Only 1-5 per cent of infected cows in a herd will show signs of the Disease. The rest of the infected animals will appear healthy.
- Tests for JD do not detect animals in the early stages of infection.
- Management changes implemented to decrease the risk of JD will also reduce the risk of other production-limiting diseases.

Act Now- call your herd veterinarian to have your risk assessment done at your next herd health visit!




from the Alberta Milk staff!
The office will be closed on
December 26-28 and
January 2.

Financial solutions designed to meet your needs.

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Manager, Agriculture
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Senior Manager Agriculture & Agribusiness
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