

48% Participation!

Source: Jodi Flaig, Industry Development Coordinator

Dairy producers have achieved an amazing 48 per cent participation in the Alberta Johne's Disease Initiative (AJDI)! Excellent work! Consider the value you add to the industry with your good work, along with nearly half of the producers in the province.

Still not signed up?

Maybe you have been hesitant to participate as you do not plan to be in the industry much past the next few years. Beginning a Johne's disease management plan can add value to your herd which you can utilize when selling or transferring to the next generation. Initial observations from producers participating in the AJDI have seen improved calf health and weaning weights, which will translate into increased reproductive success. Improving the fertility of your herd and the overall health are valuable assets. I invite you to consider demonstrating your efforts in Johne's disease management by signing up for the AJDI today.

Perhaps the prospect of veterinary costs has kept you from participating in the AJDI Risk Management (RA) program for the first time or completing a second year – **wait no longer!** In response to your feedback, the AJDI has sourced additional funding to help cover the costs of veterinary travel time and mileage where the original \$200 payment is not sufficient.

The Herd Status program:

The Herd Status (HS) program was launched this spring as a vehicle for producers wanting

to take Johne's disease management to the next level on their farms. The HS program is comprised of four levels, each requiring more intensive herd testing than the previous. Producers enter the HS program by submitting an application along with the required test results to the AJDI Technical Committee (TC). The AJDI TC reviews each application and may grant achievement to one of the four levels.

Don't forget – if you have completed testing for Johne's disease in the past, whether on your own or through another program, you may be eligible for grandfathering into the AJDI HS program. Participants in the HS program will be given a certificate of achievement to display and the option of having their name posted on the AJDI website.

If you are a participant in the AJDI RA program and have received negative test results two years in a row, you will receive an invitation from the AJDI coordinator to join the HS program at Level One.

Come check it out

I invite you to check out the recently launched AJDI website, www.albertajohnes.ca, where you will find information on the disease, the AJDI Risk Assessment and Herd Status Programs, Herd Status participants, FAQs, contact information for veterinarians and staff, AJDI updates, and more!

As always, I am here to assist! If you would like more information, have questions about the program or would like to share a comment please contact me - Jodi Flaig at Alberta Milk, (780) 577-3307.



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