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Moving forward with the Johne's disease initiative

Source: Jodi Flaig, Industry and Member Services Coordinator

The Alberta Johne's Disease Initiative (AJDI) is now in its third year of operation and nearly 55 per cent of Alberta dairy producers have signed up with their veterinarian.

Although some of the promotional grants from funding agencies will expire this summer, **I want to reassure you that the Johne's disease initiative will continue.** Alberta Milk, the University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (UCVM), along with participating herd veterinarians are firmly committed and will maintain the administration of the AJDI program (including the Herd Status program) for Alberta dairy producers.

If you have been thinking about participating in the AJDI, let me encourage you to do so this spring to take advantage of the available grant funding which covers both a portion of the cost of the veterinarian service and the entire environmental sample testing costs. The cutoff date for producers to receive that available funding for participation in the AJDI is June 28, 2013.

To Refresh

- A \$200 rebate is available to assist in covering the cost of your veterinarian's time in conducting the on-farm risk assessment, with additional funds available in circumstances where there are additional time or travel costs for the veterinarian.
- No charge for lab analysis of the six manure samples collected as part of the current AJDI (value \$450).

Both of these funding options expire June 28, 2013.

Alberta Milk and the UCVM staff will continue to follow up on funding opportunities, including Growing Forward 2, to continue research on Johne's disease, testing and funding assistance for on-farm management options.

For any questions please contact me, Jodi Flaig, at 780-577-3307.

Growing Forward 2: what's in it for dairy producers?

Source: Jodi Flaig, Industry and Member Services Coordinator

Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development (AARD) recently announced its signing of the Growing Forward 2 (GF 2) agreement with the federal government. GF 2 represents a federal – provincial commitment to offer financial support to the agriculture industry for the next five years.

While the specific GF2 details are not yet available, we understand that AARD has committed to providing a greater level of assistance to initiatives which address livestock producers' efforts in animal welfare, biosecurity (disease control) and manure management (confined feeding operations). All indications are that there will be funds available in two broad categories:

1. individual producers, to encourage adoption of specific on-farm management practices or technology, and
2. livestock organizations (like Alberta Milk), to assist in delivering program under animal welfare and biosecurity (disease control).

Alberta Milk staff has participated in productive discussions to date with AARD staff about GF 2 opportunities and we will share further details once they become available.