



**Johne's Education &
Management Assistance
Program**

November, 2009

Ontario Johne's Education and Management Assistance Program ready for January 2010 Launch

Dear Dairy Producer,

In recent years, the need for effective control of Johne's Disease (JD) has been an important topic of discussion in Ontario, Canada, and around the world. The Ontario Johne's Education and Management Assistance Program (Johne's Program) Working Group is pleased to announce the official launch of the Johne's Program, effective January 1, 2010.

JD costs the dairy industry through lower milk production and premature culling. This program is also about maintaining consumer confidence in quality dairy products from healthy, productive dairy cows.

Prevention of new infection is the most effective long-term strategy. With prevention as the program's key principle and using results from international research and proven field practices, the Ontario Johne's Program consists of the following four elements:

1. Education and Extension for both producers and veterinarians.
2. A mandatory annual Risk Assessment and Management Plan (RAMP) by the producer and herd veterinarian, a review of the critical areas where JD is transmitted with a focus on newborn calves.
3. A voluntary individual cow testing program to estimate herd infection prevalence and identify cows shedding high numbers of the Johne's bacteria.
4. The voluntary removal of high titer cows, to reduce Johne's disease transmission risk.

The producer incentive for participating in the voluntary elements of the program is the reimbursement for testing costs, up to \$8 per animal for herds.

To be eligible for test cost reimbursement, you will need to:

- have your veterinarian complete the annual RAMP; and
- verify cows with a high titer test result are removed from your herd within 90 days of testing.

Funding for this program has been provided by Dairy Farmers of Ontario, the Ontario Association of Bovine Practitioners, Can-West DHI, the Holstein, Guernsey and Jersey breed associations and the Ontario Cattlemen's Association. The program will be administered by the University of Guelph. Administration by the University of Guelph

ensures that the information and data collected through the program will provide the basis for extended multi-year research into Johne's Disease and its effective control.

Milk ELISA (or serum ELISA) testing is being made available to all herds over a four year period in a scheduled manner to make the best use of available laboratory resources.

Included with this letter you will find:

- Frequently Asked Questions;
- The randomly generated four-year provincial schedule for Johne's testing.

You are encouraged to visit the Ontario Johne's website, www.johnes.ca, for up-to-date information about the Ontario Johne's Program. If you would like to speak to someone in person about the program contact Nicole Perkins, Program Coordinator or consult with your herd veterinarian.

Johne's disease can be controlled. We have the knowledge and the tools. Let's make lower prevalence a continued reality in Ontario.

Yours truly,

Organizations with membership in the Ontario Johne's Program Working Group



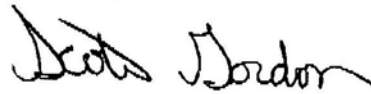
President, Jersey Canada



President, Ontario Cattlemen's Association



President, Ontario Association of Bovine Practitioners



Ontario President, Canadian Guernsey Association



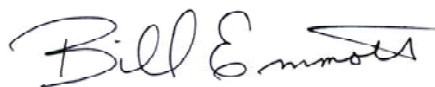
Chair, CanWest DHI



Secretary, Progressive Dairy Operators



President, Holstein Canada



Chair, Dairy Farmers of Ontario