

News Release – for immediate release

July 2, 2009

JOHNE’S EDUCATION AND MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Ontario Johne’s Disease Working Group, a group comprised of dairy and beef farmer organizations, dairy service providers, veterinary practitioners, the Ontario Veterinary College, and provincial government veterinary staff, are preparing to launch a Johne’s Education and Management Assistance Program.

The program will commence in the Fall of 2009.

The program, that has been in discussion and development over the last year, is being implemented to maintain Ontario’s low prevalence status through improved understanding of the disease and improvements to farm management systems and practices.

Johne’s is a disease of economic significance to dairy farmers because it reduces milk production.

The education and management assistance program contains three main elements:

1. education and extension;
2. an evaluation of farm management practices and systems by the farm’s veterinarian with the dairy produce, and
3. whole herd Johne’s testing.

All program elements support improved animal welfare and herd biosecurity.

The Working Group will manage funds received from member organization and where possible, government grants, to operate the program. Member organizations will provide funds and in-kind services. Dairy Farmers of Ontario has committed up to 2.1 million dollars for the first four years of the provincial program.

The program will offer up to \$8 per animal for Johne’s testing to producers that conduct on-farm evaluations and meet the entire program criteria.

Complete details on the program will be available when the program is officially launched in Fall 2009.

- 30 -

Requests for further information should be directed to members of the Working Group or alternatively sent to:

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We will re-direct your inquiry to the appropriate Working Group member.