Free Johne's Testing of BC Cattle

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The BC Ministry of Agriculture and the Government of Canada – through the federal-provincial Growing Forward partnership – is pleased to provide free testing for Johne's disease in BC cattle. Most other provinces are also offering Johne's disease testing programs.

What is Johne's disease and why should I care?

It could be costing you animals and money. Most cows infected with Johne's disease look healthy, but some will have long-term diarrhea and weight loss despite a normal appetite. There is no treatment. Johne's disease is caused by a bacteria (*Mycobacterium avium* subspecies *paratuberculosis* [aka MAP]) which is related to TB and leprosy. Typically calves are infected by the manure, colostrum and milk of older infected animals and the disease progresses slowly. Usually the scours and weight loss show up in cows that are 3 to 6 years old.

How do I get my cattle tested?

Contact your vet. Your vet will contact the BC Ministry of Agriculture Animal Health Centre in Abbotsford to confirm when the samples can be submitted. Beef herds collecting samples during pregnancy checks will be given scheduling preference. The vet will collect a manure sample from each animal over 18 months of age. The samples will be sent to the lab for testing. Two tests will be done for Johne's disease. **Free BVD testing** is also offered and requires your vet to collect skin or blood samples.

In order to participate in the free testing, an on-farm risk assessment is required. The risk assessment, conducted by your veterinarian, will assess your herd's chance of getting or having various infectious diseases that can limit your production and profit. The assessment will greatly help you and your vet interpret and respond to your free test results.

How will I get my results?

From your vet, in a few months.

Who do I contact for more information?

Contact your vet, or Dr. Brian Radke at brian.radke@gov.bc.ca; 604-556-3066, or 1-877-877-2474.