



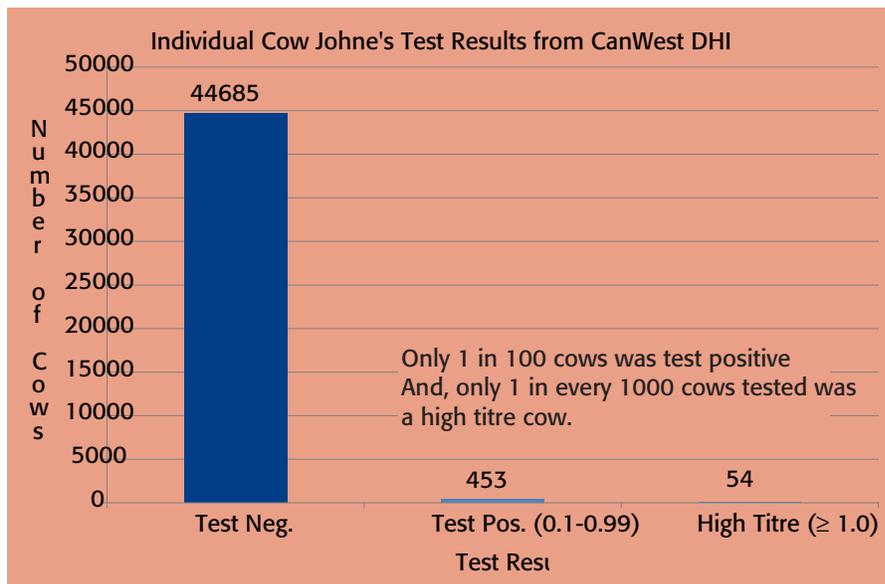
Take advantage of Johne's program to manage this dread disease

By Nicole Perkins

The Ontario Johne's Education and Management Assistance Program is proving you can effectively manage this disease if you take advantage of the program to learn your herd's status and adopt effective management practices.

In the recently completed first year of the four-year program, about 70 per cent of eligible producers participated. They have completed whole herd testing during their county's scheduled testing period, a Risk Assessment and Management Plan (RAMP) evaluation with their veterinarians and, if applicable, removed cows with an ELISA test score of 1.0 or higher from their herds within 90 days of the herd test.

The program tested more than



This graph shows 453 cows had a positive result on either the blood or milk ELISA—about one per cent of the more than 45,000 cows tested in 2010 from more than 700 herds.

700 herds and just over 45,000 cows in 2010. The graph shows 453 had a positive result on either the blood or milk ELISA—about one per cent of all cows tested. Animals

with a very high positive result of 1.0 or higher are classified as high-titre cows (HTCs), and are of particular concern.

There were 54 HTCs among the

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NOTICE: To keep Ontario dairy producers and other industry sectors informed, Dairy Farmers of Ontario publishes changes to its regulations. Complete regulations are available on DFO's website at www.milk.org.

DFO Regulation 02/11 replaces DFO Regulation 01/11 and was made to adjust the price of Special Milk Classes as a result of a CDC announcement, effective January 1, 2011 as follows:

Class	Butterfat (\$/kg)		Protein (\$/kg)		Other Solids (\$/kg)	
	New	Old	New	Old	New	Old
5(a)	3.9882	5.0064	4.5570	4.6381	0.4245	0.4140
5(b)	3.9882	5.0064	2.2367	2.2712	2.2367	2.2712
5(c)	4.5488	5.0424	2.2367	1.9192	2.2367	1.9192

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453 positive cows. These 54 animals were in 46 herds, representing about 0.1 per cent of all cows tested. This is an encouraging finding. After the first year, Ontario has shown a low prevalence of herds with a severe Johne's problem, and an overall low prevalence of test-positive cows at any level.

HTCs actively shed *Mycobacterium avium paratuberculosis* (MAP), the bacteria that cause Johne's. These cows are an infection source for calves in your herd or in other herds if you sell them for dairy purposes. It is imperative to learn about the Johne's status of any cattle you are considering buying to ensure you do not introduce Johne's into your herd.

You can receive \$500 for voluntarily removing HTCs found during herd testing to composting, burial or rendering (not for beef or dairy purposes). Document cow removal with a Disposal Form and remove them within 90 days of testing or before their next calving, whichever comes first.

Participating producers who removed HTCs in 2010 have already received \$250 per HTC cow. They will receive an additional \$250 shortly. Producers who remove HTCs as required for the program in 2011, 2012 and 2013 will receive \$500 per cow.

Funds to remove HTCs have been increased to encourage producers to participate fully in the removal program. Removing HTCs greatly re-

duces the risk of Johne's spreading.

Herds with HTCs are also being financially assisted to make management and facility changes that advance Johne's prevention. Examples include:

- modifications to maternity pens, such as extra gates for separating calving cows in group pens or building mini-pens for newborn calves;
- purchase and provision of calf hutches;
- building pens to keep calves from contacting the mature cow herd;
- future follow-up herd testing.

A number of producers have commented they want to dispose of high-titre cows regardless of reimbursement. No one who has had Johne's wants to pass it on to another herd owner. Testing to identify HTCs and education about the risk they pose to their home herds and those of potential buyers continues to encourage this response.

Research strongly supports a program of improved calf management and removing active MAP shedders as soon as possible from your herd to control Johne's. Your vet can help put management changes and removal into the right perspective for your herd's situation. To view your county's testing schedule and program criteria, visit www.johnes.ca.

Nicole Perkins is the Johne's program co-ordinator. Contact her at 226-979-1664 or johnes@uoguelph.ca for further information about the program.



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