



Johne's update

Johne's test results kept confidential

By Nicole Perkins

When you have your dairy herd tested as part of the new Ontario Johne's Education and Management Assistance Program, rest assured the results will remain strictly confidential. The only recipients are you, your veterinarian, and the program co-ordinator.

Every Ontario herd has the opportunity to perform one whole herd laboratory test to determine your farm's Johne's disease status. Since Johne's is not a reportable disease under Canadian Food Inspection Agency regulations, results can be kept confidential.

Your herd veterinarian can help you interpret test results. You and

your vet can assess current herd management practices, and develop any needed changes. The program's goal is to help you produce milk from healthy, Johne's-free cattle.

When requesting this test, you have to include a Johne's testing submission form. Dairy Farmers of Ontario mails you this form just before your assigned testing window. You can check the schedule at the program's website, www.johnes.ca.

The form tells the lab your samples are part of the program. It also gives the lab permission to send the herd results to the program co-ordinator.

The program co-ordinator needs to know the testing is done to arrange your testing reimbursement. As well, she will use test statistics to summa-



Producing milk from healthy, Johne's-free cattle is program's goal.

size results in future articles for *The Milk Producer*, information posted on the program website, and other pertinent producer-focused communication.

This information will help you, your vet and the participating organizations monitor the overall provincial herd status.

Results will always be presented in overall herd or cow aggregate form. No individual producer, herd or cow results will ever be identified without the owner's permission.

If you want to share information—with potential buyers or breed associations, for example—you have to do it yourself. A third party cannot access your specific herd information through the Ontario Johne's program.

If you have any questions about the testing program, contact program co-ordinator Nicole Perkins at 226-979-1664 or johnes@uoguelph.ca.

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