



Ready to launch

Ontario's dairy industry has developed a provincial plan to deal with Johne's disease, and is encouraging all producers to participate. Using prevention as the guiding principle and incorporating international research and proven field practices, the program is set to kick off in January 2010.

What's in the program?

The program has four elements:

1. education;
2. the animal health Risk Assessment and Management Plan (RAMP);
3. testing;
4. removal of high-titre Johne's cows.

The program offers you a financial incentive to test all lactating cows once during the four years of the program. You also have to do the RAMP with a trained herd veterinarian each year, and remove high-titre cows within 90 days of test day.

What's the animal health Risk Assessment and Management Plan (RAMP)?

DFO requires doing the RAMP annually on each licensed farm. An annual animal health evaluation is needed for export of Ontario dairy products and has the potential to improve animal health.

The RAMP questionnaire guides you and your vet step-by-step through calf-raising and general sanitation practices. The goal is to look for risks that could allow Johne's bacteria to infect calves on your farm.

After completing the questionnaire, you and your vet draft a management

The four elements of Ontario's new Johne's program starting in January 2010 are:

1. Education and extension for producers and vets

2. A mandatory animal health and Johne's Disease Risk Assessment and Management Plan (the RAMP), done each year

3. A one-time, voluntary herd test (all cows on one test day) with reimbursement of \$8 per test.

4. Removal of high-test positive cows to rendering or by on-farm disposal (required for reimbursement).

plan that details what can and will be done in the next year. It will be up to you and your vet to decide what is best for the herd, and your responsibility to implement the recommendations. When you take steps to reduce new Johne's infections, you will also reduce new infections caused by other organisms, improving overall herd health.

You can contact your own vet directly to schedule the RAMP. This can be done as part of a routine herd health visit. Once it's completed, your vet will submit the RAMP summary page to the Johne's program co-ordinator.

How will testing work?

Each producer will be allotted a six-week testing window. The list of who can test when will be published in this issue of *The Milk Producer*. The schedule will also be available on the program website.

You will receive a Testing Submission Form (known as a "green sheet") with your DFO monthly statement just prior to your allotted testing time, or window. Once you receive the green sheet, you can choose the testing option that works best for you:

- instruct DHI staff to have your test-day samples tested at that time for Johne's at CanWest DHI using the milk ELISA. You can contact DHI directly if you're not on regular service;
- request your vet to set up blood sampling and testing at the Animal Health Laboratory in Guelph using the serum ELISA.

The green sheet is sent in with the samples to be tested at either laboratory to indicate the samples are part of the Johne's program.

How do you get reimbursed for testing on the program?

If you test all lactating animals in your herd on test day during your testing window, you are eligible to



receive an \$8 per test reimbursement. To receive the reimbursement, you have to meet these conditions:

- pay all testing costs (up front if you are not a DHI customer);
- remove from your herd within 90 days of the testing date any cows found to have positive tests in the high-titre range (1.0 or higher on the milk ELISA or equivalent value on the serum ELISA). These cows must not go to another herd or enter the food chain;
- verify the high-titre animal has been removed;
- conduct the risk assessment prior to reimbursement.

Once the program co-ordinator knows you have met all program requirements, a cheque will be sent to you for reimbursement of testing costs.

How do you prove the high-titre cow has been removed?

Removal of high-titre cows is important for removing actively shedding Johne's animals and reducing the spread of Johne's disease. If a high-titre cow is found in your herd, you can dispose of her on-farm though burying or composting, or send her to rendering.

If you dispose of the animal on-farm, you must fill out a disposal form and have your herd vet sign it to confirm removal. There is no time limitation on the sign-off and you can complete this step during a regular herd health visit. If the cow goes to

rendering, her tag number will be collected at the time of receipt for rendering.

Who is running the program?

This is an industry-led program, administered by the University of Guelph. Program co-ordinator, Nicole Perkins is available to help you (e-mail, johnes@uoguelph.ca or telephone, 226-979-1664). You can also contact Johne's industry commit-

tee chair, Dr. Ann Godkin (e-mail ann.godkin@ontario.ca, phone 519-846-3409). Information and forms are posted on the Johne's program website at www.johnes.ca.

Dr. Ann Godkin, who chairs the Ontario Johne's Disease Industry Working Group, is disease prevention veterinarian with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs.

Producer schedule by county for Johne's Program Herd Testing

County	Johne's Testing Schedule
Glengarry, Grenville	Jan. 1, 2010 - Feb. 13, 2010
Essex-Kent, Perth 1 (North Perth Township)	Feb. 14, 2010 - Mar. 27, 2010
Brant, Elgin	Mar. 28, 2010 - May 8, 2010
Haldimand, Dufferin, Bruce 1 (only Brockton Township)	May 9, 2010 - June 19, 2010
Carleton, Frontenac	June 20, 2010 - July 31, 2010
C. of Kawartha Lakes, Thunder Bay, Timiskaming, Cochrane	Aug. 1, 2010 - Sept. 11, 2010
Dundas	Sept. 12, 2010 - Oct. 23, 2010
Durham Region, York	Oct. 24, 2010 - Dec. 4, 2010
Halton, Huron 1 (Huron East township only), Lambton, Niagara	Dec. 5, 2010 - Jan. 15, 2011
Hastings, Leeds	Jan. 16, 2011 - Feb. 26, 2011
Huron 2 (all townships except for Huron East)	Feb. 27, 2011 - Apr. 9, 2011
Middlesex	Apr. 10, 2011 - May 21, 2011
Northumberland, Peterborough	May 22, 2011 - July 2, 2011
Algoma, E. Nipissing-Parry Sound, E. Sudbury-W. Nipissing, 'Manitoulin-W. Sudbury, Rainy River, Norfolk, Simcoe	July 3, 2011 - Aug. 13, 2011
Bruce 2 (all townships except Brockton)	Aug. 14, 2011 - Sept. 24, 2011
Oxford 1 (Woodstock, Ingersoll & Zorra)	Sept. 25, 2011 - Nov. 5, 2011
Lennox-Addington, Stormont	Nov. 6, 2011 - Dec. 17, 2011
Peel, Wellington 1 (all townships except Mapleton, Wellington North & Minto)	Dec. 18, 2011 - Jan. 28, 2012
Waterloo 1 (all townships except Woolwich)	Jan. 29, 2012 - Mar. 10, 2012
Russell, Lanark	Mar. 11, 2012 - Apr. 21, 2012
Wellington 2 (Mapleton township)	Apr. 22, 2012 - June 2, 2012
Oxford 2 (all townships except Ingersoll, Woodstock & Zorra)	June 3, 2012 - July 14, 2012
Perth 2 (Stratford and Perth East Townships)	July 15, 2012 - Aug. 25, 2012
Prescott	Aug. 26, 2012 - Oct. 6, 2012
Waterloo 2 (Woolwich township), Wentworth	Oct. 7, 2012 - Nov. 17, 2012
Perth 3 (all townships except N. Perth, Stratford and Perth East)	Nov. 18, 2012 - Dec. 29, 2012
Prince Edward, Renfrew	Dec. 30, 2012 - Feb. 9, 2013
Wellington 3 (Wellington North & Minto townships only)	Feb. 10, 2013 - Mar. 23, 2013
Grey	Mar. 24, 2013 - May 4, 2013

To accommodate lab testing capacity, testing is being done on a predetermined schedule. Any producer who is unable to or chooses not to complete the Johne's whole herd test prior to the expiry date will have an opportunity to complete a whole herd test and be reimbursed, after the scheduled testing is completed. Information will be made available after the completion of the scheduled testing.

Members of the Ontario Johne's Disease Industry Working Group: Dairy Farmers of Ontario, Ontario Association of Bovine Practitioners, Progressive Dairy Operators of Ontario, CanWest DHI, Holstein, Jersey and Guernsey breed associations (Canadian and Ontario), Ontario Cattlemen's Association, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, and the University of Guelph.