

Guidelines for Johne's Disease Eradication

Once Johne's disease becomes established in a herd, breaking the cycle for eradication requires a lot of work and diligence by the producer. The following steps are offered to help producers eliminate the disease from the herd and the surrounding environment, where the organism can persist and cause reinfection.

1. Remove calves to clean quarters immediately after birth. Natural nursing must not be permitted.
2. Thoroughly wash udder and sides of dam to remove all manure before drawing colostrum to be used for initial feedings of calf.
3. Protect young animals from all adult feed and waste material. Be sure to wear clean clothing and footwear in calf rearing quarters.
4. Use only clean utensils for feeding calves. Use only clean, uncontaminated bedding. Use cleaning tools maintained for clean group only.
5. Be sure that all feed is uncontaminated.
6. Pasture on clean, uncontaminated areas and maintain in winter quarters separate from adults until necessary to add to the milking line.
7. Protect young animals from all drainage that may come from area occupied by adult cattle.
8. Remove any unnecessary shade from areas occupied by either the young, clean group or the adult group. Allow sun to reach any shaded areas at some time during the day.
9. Water supply—fence or remove any stagnant pools. Allow animals to drink only from uncontaminated tanks for free flowing streams.
10. Separate any unthrifty animals from the herd until condition is diagnosed. Handle these animals after clean animals in routine chores. Do not return these animals to the herd unless possibility of Johne's disease is eliminated.
11. Immediately remove for slaughter any animal showing signs of recurrent diarrhea, also their offspring.
12. Remove all culture positive animals and their offspring from the herd.
13. Use semen from non-infected bulls. Extreme care must be taken that a bull come from a Johne's-negative herd and frequent changes in sires are desirable.
14. Clean and disinfect areas where Johne's infected animals have been kept with approved disinfectant.
15. If necessary to purchase replacement animals, obtain mature individuals from herds with no history of Johne's disease.
16. Sale of infected animals for dairy or breeding purposes may subject the owner to civil liability.

