

How does the Johne's Disease Control Program work?

MMPA has been actively involved with MSU, Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) and USDA in the development of and administering the Michigan Voluntary Johne's Disease Control Program. MMPA Member Representatives participated in the Johne's disease control training approximately three years ago. The national program requires retraining every three years. As a result, our member representatives again attended Johne's Disease Control training at MSU conducted by MSU, MDA and USDA in July. The training programs teach member representatives about the disease, how to conduct risk assessments, and establish control programs on farms.

Michigan Bovine Veterinary Practitioners have also participated in Johne's disease training. This

training is required for veterinarians to develop herd management programs for producers to be certified Johne's free or to work with farms that have Johne's to develop a control program.

The Johne's Disease Control Program consist of three stages: Risk Assessment, Herd Plan, and Testing. MMPA Member Representatives have been conducting risk assessments on member farms for the past two years at the request of members. These risk assessments are being shared with the producer's veterinarian if the producer wishes.

In addition to the risk assessments, MMPA has been involved in the Johne's testing program to assist members in determining the prevalence of Johne's infection in their herd. Producers are able to submit milk samples through their milk hauler to the Novi laboratory. Those samples are then delivered to Antel Bio in East Lansing for Johne's testing. The testing cost of \$6 per sample is then deducted from the member's milk check.

The risk assessments conducted by MMPA Member Representatives helps members to identify and determine the risk factors important in the spread of Johne's. The herd plans developed by veterinarians lay out a strategy for preventing and eliminating the disease from the herds.

In Michigan, there are currently funds available to offset the cost of testing and development of the herd plan. The funds for testing are available for blood and fecal tests only. No funds are available for milk testing. Other states have similar cost share programs. Availability of these funds is contingent upon federal and state budgets.

MMPA has been actively involved in the Johne's Disease Control program, not only because of the economic impact of Johne's, but also to help control or prevent other diseases that are fecal to oral contracted. Many practices used to control Johne's are also used to control mastitis.

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MMPA Quality Premium Program

Somatic Cell Count premiums and deductions (in addition to Federal Order SCC Adjustments computed in the producer pay price) will be paid at the following levels:

- 50,000 or below +50¢/cwt.
- 51,000 - 75,000 +45¢/cwt.
- 76,000 - 100,000 +40¢/cwt.
- 101,000 - 125,000 +35¢/cwt.
- 126,000 - 150,000 +30¢/cwt.
- 151,000 - 175,000 +25¢/cwt.
- 176,000 - 200,000 +20¢/cwt.
- 201,000 - 225,000 +15¢/cwt.
- 226,000 - 275,000 +05¢/cwt.
- 501,000 - 600,000 -05¢/cwt.
- 601,000 - 750,000 -25¢/cwt.
- Over 750,000 -\$1/cwt.

A payment of 5¢/cwt. will be added for each of the following, if the count is equal to or below:

- 10,000 Raw Bacteria Count
- 20,000 Pre-Incubated (PI) Count

There will be a deduction of 10¢/cwt. for:

- Greater than 100,000 Raw Bacteria Count

A high raw count deduction will be waived if the producer has received the quality premium the previous three months for raw bacteria count.

To qualify for Raw, PI and Somatic Cell Count premiums there must **not** be any of the following during the month:

- Positive drug residue
- Abnormal freeze points
- High load count shipment or rejected load shipment
- #3 or #4 sediment *
- Raw Bacteria count over 100,000 *

The count levels for raw and PI will be determined on one test run per month.

** Note: These do not affect the somatic cell count premium.*

To qualify for MMPA volume premiums there must be:

- No abnormal freeze points during the month
- An average somatic cell count of 750,000 or less.

Michigan Mandatory ID Update

According to Michigan Department of Agriculture officials, the Michigan Mandatory Cattle Identification Program is picking up speed. Producers are steadily obtaining premises numbers and many have begun to order Radio Frequency Identification Device (RFID) tags. As of July 10, 2006, there were 14,347 premises registered in USDA's national database. This number represents cattle, swine, sheep, and some cervid operations. All states in the United States are registering premises to meet the USDA deadline of January 2009 for premises registration.

In Michigan, 1,246 producers have ordered 112,500 RFID tags. The RFID tags will be required for all Michigan cattle moving from premises starting March 1, 2007. Producers are encouraged to order their tags now to avoid the rush.

To receive premises ID, order tags, or for more information, contact MDA at 1-866-870-5136. Additional facts are available at www.michigan.gov/mda.

EPA Announces Proposed CAFO NPDES Rule

The Environmental Protection Agency announced proposed revisions to the 2003 CAFO NPDES Rule, which are result of the Second Circuit Court decision in the Waterkeeper Alliance et al. vs. EPA case.

EPA is proposing several significant changes to the 2003 rule that will impact dairy operations. A few of the proposed changes to the 2003 CAFO rule are:

- CAFOs with the potential to discharge will not be required to get a permit, only CAFOs that actually discharge or propose to discharge will need to obtain an NPDES permit.

- The CAFO's Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) must

be incorporated in the permit and reviewed by the permit authority. The NMP will also be available for public review.

- EPA proposes to clarify its selection of best conventional technology for fecal coliform bacteria.
- CAFOs land applying manure or processed wastewater may not need NPDES permits if the only discharge from those facilities is agricultural stormwater.

Once EPA publishes the proposed rule in the Federal Register, there will be a 45 day comment period. NMPF will be developing comments to submit to EPA.

Quality Watch

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It is important to note that Johne's disease cannot be treated, making PREVENTION the best medicine. To reduce Johne's risks on the farm, producers should always strive to:

- Follow good management practices.
- Keep everything clean from the feeding equipment to the environment and control flies.
- Prevent newborn calves from sucking on manure covered teats, udders, pails, bottles, pens, hutches, or anything else they can come in contact that may have manure on it.
- Use tuberculocidal disinfectants on calf feeding equipment and facilities.
- Do not feed colostrum or milk from cows who have tested positive for Johne's.
- Make sure you feed calf milk replacers to prevent the spread of Johne's to your future herd. MMPA has a special milk replacer offer for members who conduct risk assessment with membership representatives. Please contact your membership representative for promotion details and risk assessment.

Additional information on Johne's disease is available at: www.cvm.msu.edu/extension/johnes.

Indiana producers can contact the Indiana State Board of Animal Health at (877) 747-3038 for more information on Indiana's Voluntary Johne's Program.



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