



**Atlantic
Johne's Disease
Initiative**



Risk Management
for Atlantic Canadian
Dairy Herds



About Johne's Disease

Johne's disease (JD) is among the top animal health priorities of the Canadian dairy industry. The bacteria affects the intestinal tract of cattle, interfering with nutrient absorption and leading to reduced milk production, difficulty getting cows pregnant and increased culling.

The disease is typically silent, without any observable signs, although in late stages, cows may show diarrhea. The bacteria are mainly spread from infected mature cows to calves through manure, colostrum or milk.

About the AJDI program

The AJDI is a long-term farm strategy to reduce Johne's. The key components are:

Education and Management changes

- Controlling risk of introduction and spread
- One-on-one and group education
- Farm risk analysis and management plans

Herd and Cow testing

- Herd environmental screening to identify priorities for control activities
- Cow testing for herds that are test positive on environmental screening
- Herd and cow test results are **confidential** and shared only with the farmer-identified AJDI-certified veterinarian

*Maritime Quality Milk has
Atlantic Canada's only USDA
proficiency-tested Johne's Lab.*



Biosecurity

The best way to protect your herd is to be **closed** (no purchases of any animals).

If you need to buy an animal, test the **HERD** it came from, **not the cow**. Tests are better at finding infected herds than infected cows. Environmental culture positive herds are 100% certain to be infected.



- Testing individual animals will identify only **15 to 50%** of infected cows
- Young animals are typically purchased and tests are **less accurate** in heifers
- Untested herds should be considered infected

**Knowledge is the best weapon to protect
your herd!**



Economics

Johne's disease control could improve your bottom line.

Infected cows produce **less milk**, are more **difficult to get in calf**, and get **culled** more frequently.

Johne's disease can also impact **market opportunities** for heifer sales.



- Infected cows will eat as much but produce 1 to 4 kilograms **less milk** per day than herdmates, **before** signs are observed
- Infected cows have more **days open**
- Positive herds have higher **culling rates** and **replacement costs**, as well as larger **vet bills**

Johne's control will leave more money in your pocket!



Managing young-stock

There is **no treatment** for Johne's disease and the highest risk for new infections is to pre-weaned calves.

Program goals are to **protect calves** from exposure so that the next generation is less affected.

Your veterinarian can design a program to reduce risk for your calves.



- Keep calving area free of adult manure and only have 1 cow in the calving area at a time
 - Keep all non-calving cows (especially sick ones!) away from the calving area
 - Move calf immediately after birth away from exposure to adult manure
 - Discuss colostrum and milk options with vet
- Help your heifers reach their potential!**

Program Specifics

Annual Herd testing

- Program entry point: **Voluntary and free**
- Identify the bacteria in farm environment manure (USDA program)
- Determines if the bacteria is present, without false positive test results
- Identifies positive herds for cow testing

Herd risk assessment

- The fastest and most cost-effective route to disease reduction
- Veterinarians conduct program funded one-on-one farm assessments
- Focuses on management to reduce within and between herd spread

Cow testing

- Program co-funds testing in known infected herds (Based on herd testing)
- Fecal, blood and milk tests available, and program funds equivalent of 60% of the cost of the milk test
- Cow results will guide management and culling decisions

Test Negative Herds

- Herds testing negative on the environmental screen will be eligible to be listed on the program website

**For details contact your veterinarian,
call 902 566 0725 or visit our website
www.atlanticjohnes.ca**

AJDI Partners

