

# Johne's Control Program Reaches Milestone



Johne's disease can have a substantial economic impact through impaired production and reproduction. The regional program for Johne's disease control has recently achieved a significant milestone. The program goal was to enroll 50% of the region's 693 dairy herds within one year. As Figure 1 illustrates, by March 31 (9 months after launch), 371 herds or 54% of herds had signed up. Participation has been very good across all provinces.

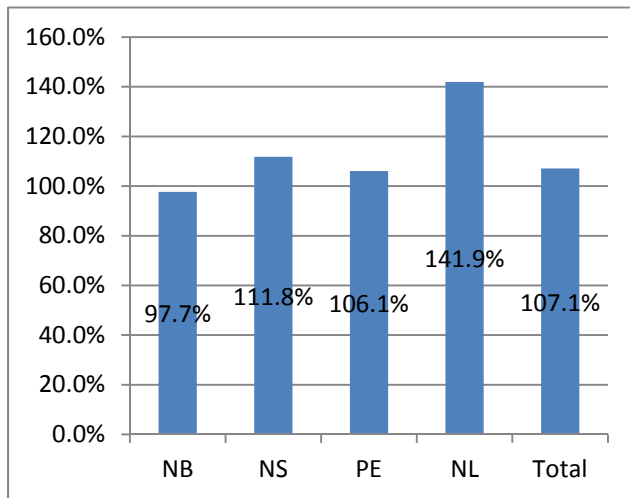


Figure 1. Enrollment by province in the first 9 months of AJDI, as a percent of year 1 goal

So far, just under 200 herds have had environmental cultures completed for the Johne's bacteria, with 20% being positive. Both positive and negative herds are being assisted to control risk of introduction and spread by 47 certified veterinarians across the region. An initial review of veterinarian recommendations shows emphasis on decreasing exposure of young calves to adult cow manure for culture-positive herds, and reviewing animal purchase policies for culture-negative herds.

Recently, based on projected funding, the program steering committee approved the recruitment of **up to 80 additional herds** for the next year, after which a waiting list will be created. More details on Johne's disease and the program, including a list of certified veterinarians and herds that have tested negative in year 1 of culturing, can be found at [www.atlanticjohnes.ca](http://www.atlanticjohnes.ca). The program is generously supported by the following organizations.

