



## JOHNE'S DISEASE BULLETIN

### On-farm herd risk assessments - an important tool to help you address Johne's disease on your farm

**Carrying out full-herd screening tests for Johne's disease and paying attention to good biosecurity practices are important elements in the control of the disease, but carrying out an on-farm risk assessment, in conjunction with your vet, is critical to understanding the risks relating to your own herd and taking steps to address them.**

**T**ogether with a herd screening test, the on-farm risk assessment provides valuable information about the risks your herd currently faces, as well as those from the past which may now be starting to cause problems within your herd.

The best way to build a complete herd assurance picture is to start with an animal health risk assessment so you understand whether there are farm management practices which may need modification to minimise risks. It is hard to start planning without a clear idea of the outcome you want to achieve. By carrying out an animal health risk assessment, you will be able to develop a plan to minimise the risks associated with JD entering your farm and then spreading within the herd. Some farmers are concerned that Johne's disease management is tough, but you may be surprised to find out that simple changes of practice such as limiting entry points to a calf shed, wearing clean overalls when working with calves and using foot baths at entry points can make a big difference to the risk of spreading disease.

The risk assessment should be conducted by your Approved Veterinary Practitioner, who is a Johne's disease expert. Your AVP is independent of your business, but also understands your farming


operation and will identify the main risks and discuss how best to manage these risks. From this important information, it is then possible for you to formulate a plan of action with veterinary guidance, and achieve the level of Johne's disease control that you are able to manage in the short term. Some of the strategies for reducing the risk of Johne's disease just require a simple change of practice on farm, often with little or no associated expenditure.



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By carrying out a risk assessment and developing a management plan you are well on the way to managing your risk of Johne's disease and improving your herd's health. Subsequent annual reviews of the management plan and the identification of any new risks will ensure you have not overlooked any important aspect of disease management and help you fine tune your management plan.

**Click here** to see information on the AHI website on the management of Johne's disease, as well as on calf management and biosecurity.




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Johne's disease leaflet series

## Johne's disease

### Frequently Asked Questions



JOHNE'S DISEASE CONTROL PROGRAMME  
Animal Health Ireland, 4-5 The Archways, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim, N41 WN27



**Johne's Control**  
Animal Health Ireland.ie