



## JOHNE'S DISEASE BULLETIN

# Johne's disease control - an international perspective

**Control of Johne's disease control has been a topic of conversation for many years in international circles among those interested in managing the associated loss of production while continuing to demonstrate a commitment to dairy production which meets the increasingly sophisticated demands customers' place on food production systems.**

The number of countries seeking to actively control Johne's disease has been increasing over the past twenty years and now includes major dairy product exporting countries in North America, Australasia and Europe. The majority of countries adopt a coordinated voluntary or semi-regulated approach, recognising that the most cost-effective strategy for managing the risk arising from the spread of Johne's disease from infected herds is to address this at the herd level.

These programmes often include differing pathways and activities to support farmers whose herds are found to be test negative, and those whose herds are identified as test positive. However, these pathways share a common focus on reducing the level of disease in infected herds and protecting test-negative herds from the future risk of infection through the robust implementation of biosecurity practices, recognising that prevention is better than cure.

Disease in infected herds is usually managed through ongoing herd testing, identification and early removal of shedding animals, an emphasis on avoiding environmental contamination on the farm and protecting calves from infection.

Test negative herds maintain biosecurity by minimising stock movements onto the farm. Classification schemes based on individual herd testing history as well as stock movements to identify a pool of low-risk animals are also often in place. Increasingly this is supported by farmer declarations identifying the practices in place to control and prevent Johne's disease.

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Although there is some variation between countries, international programmes have a common 'core' of activities (see below), including on-farm risk assessments and management plans (also known as biosecurity plans), herd screening tests, herd assurance scores or classification systems and extensive knowledge exchange and communication programmes involving veterinarians and farmers.

## Summary of key elements of Johne's disease control programmes in other countries

Country	Coordinated voluntary programme	Screening tests	Biosecurity plan	Detailed investigation of positive herds	Knowledge exchange	Herd classification / declarations
Canada	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Denmark	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
USA	Yes	Yes	Yes	Optional	No	Yes
United Kingdom	Yes	Optional	Yes	Optional	Yes	Optional
Netherlands	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Australia	Yes	Optional	Yes	Optional	Yes	Yes
France	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes