



## JOHNE'S DISEASE BULLETIN

# Which cows should be culled?

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Recent dry conditions are causing farmers to reassess their options for early culling, including those with chronic health conditions such as lameness, mastitis or high cell count.

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Another group of animals to consider are animals that have previously tested positive for MAP, the bacteria that causes Johne's disease.

If these animals are under a nutritional or environmental stress they are more likely to become infectious, or clinical cases.

Start by reviewing and discussing your herd's Johne's testing history with your approved veterinary practitioner (AVP) and together prioritise animals for culling. Herdowners can view any tests results uploaded to the ICBF at [www.icbf.com](http://www.icbf.com) by following these easy steps (Figure 1).

### Which animals should be culled first?

Prioritise animals for culling in the following order:

- Any confirmed clinical cases
- PCR test-positive animals
- ELISA test-positive animals

Clinical cases and PCR-positive animals (dung test) are already shedding bacteria in their faeces (and potentially milk), contaminating the environment and infecting young stock. They should be removed as soon as possible after diagnosis.

All ELISA-positive animals (blood or milk test) should be considered as a higher-risk of being infected and shedding the MAP bacteria. Those animals with more than one positive ELISA test result are particular candidates for culling, especially if your AVP considers that the test values have risen over time.

Remember that animals being culled due to Johne's disease should not be sold for breeding, but may be sold to cow fattening herds, factories and abattoirs.

## STEP 01 Login at [www.icbf.com](http://www.icbf.com)

**ONLINE SERVICES**

User name

Password

**LOG IN**

[Forgot your password?](#)

**LOGIN AT [www.icbf.com](http://www.icbf.com).** Your username is your herd number (e.g. A1234567).  
If you are a new user or have forgotten your password:

1. Call 1850-600-900 during office hours **OR**
2. Text the word PASS to 089 4577663. NOTE: Your mobile number needs to be stored on our database **OR**
3. Email Support ([query@icbf.com](mailto:query@icbf.com)).

## STEP 02 Access AHI portal



ADMIN ▾
REPORTS ▾
RECORD EVENTS ▾
VIEW PROFILES ▾
APPLICATIONS ▾
A SERVICES ▾

Welcome to the ICBF Homepage

You can access all your Herd Profiles and Reports from the drop down menus above. For any queries

The **New Animal Search** facility (under Applications Menu) will allow herd owners to search for female

**A** Select "**SERVICES**"

**B** Select "**AHI ANIMAL HEALTH**" from the dropdown menu

Genomic Services

Weight Recording

BTAP

Beef Data & Genomics Programme [HERE](#)

GeneIreland

B AHI Animal Health

## STEP 03 Select <Johne's Control>









Figure 1.

## What's in a name?

There are three tests routinely used to diagnose and control Johne's disease.

- ELISA tests, also known as blood or milk tests, which are most useful when used as a herd screening test. These tests check for antibodies to MAP.
- Faecal culture is used as an individual animal test to confirm shedding of bacteria in the dung of ELISA positive animals. Because the organism is slow-growing, it may take some weeks to return a result. A positive result confirms infection in the animal and the herd.
- The PCR test is also used as an individual animal test to confirm the presence of MAP DNA in the dung of ELISA positive animals. The test is more rapid (1-2 weeks) than faecal culture and is the preferred follow-up test. A positive result confirms infection is present in the herd, and most likely the animal.

