

Your Herd Johne's Summary Report - Part 2 - What is it telling you?

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In the July 2023 monthly bulletin we looked at how to access your herd summary report on ICBF ([Accessing the AHI dashboards](#)) and began the process of working through the different sections in it, explaining the information contained and how it applies to Johne's Disease (JD) control. In this bulletin we will work forward from section 5 in the herd summary report.

Section 5 shown below in Figure 1 gives the herdowner information about the overall **APPARENT PREVALENCE** of Johne's disease in their herd. The other information available in this table is a breakdown of prevalence by age group within the herd. The apparent prevalence is calculated as the total number of animals with a positive or inconclusive ELISA test result as a fraction of the total number in the herd or age cohort, given as a percentage. The breakdown by age is important as it allows focus to be placed on certain cohorts within the herd, which may be contributing a larger share towards whole herd prevalence.

5. Apparent prevalence ³	2015	2016	2017/18	2019	2020	2021
Whole herd	2 / 157 = 1%	2 / 167 = 1%	6 / 195 = 3%	4 / 375 = 1%	6 / 387 = 2%	12 / 438 = 3%
Animals aged 2 y.o.	0 / 69 = 0%	0 / 30 = 0%	0 / 30 = 0%	0 / 72 = 0%	0 / 78 = 0%	2 / 122 = 2%
Animals aged 3 y.o.	1 / 46 = 2%	0 / 56 = 0%	1 / 31 = 3%	3 / 163 = 2%	0 / 68 = 0%	2 / 69 = 3%
Animals aged 4 y.o.	0 / 11 = 0%	1 / 35 = 3%	2 / 54 = 4%	0 / 32 = 0%	4 / 154 = 3%	1 / 57 = 2%
Animals aged 5 y.o.	0 / 14 = 0%	0 / 22 = 0%	2 / 36 = 6%	0 / 22 = 0%	1 / 28 = 4%	4 / 119 = 3%
Animals aged >5 y.o.	1 / 17 = 6%	1 / 24 = 4%	1 / 44 = 2%	1 / 86 = 1%	1 / 59 = 2%	3 / 71 = 4%

Figure 1. Section 5 of the herd summary report giving information about the apparent prevalence percentage of Johne's disease in the herd.

Movement of infected animals into a herd is one way in which Johne's disease can be spread. For this reason, section 6 in the herd summary report details the number of animals moved into the herd and the number of sources from which they were derived. As shown in Figure 2 below the total number of moves to a herd is broken down into males and females, with the number of imported (non-Irish) animals also included. The bottom row of the table shows the number of source herds from which the introduced animals originated, excluding animals returning to their own herd, such as the return of contract-reared heifers.

6. Inward movements of cattle	2015	2016	2017/18	2019	2020	2021
Total	251	78	318	138	90	110
Males	7	2	3	6	3	3
Females	244	76	315	132	87	107
Imported (non-IE)	0	0	0	0	0	0
No. of source herds ⁹	4	2	4	1	1	0

Figure 2. Herd summary report section 6 showing number of inward moves to a herd and number of source herds for these moves.

The final section (Figure 3) in the herd summary report gives a breakdown of the results returned from the annual herd risk assessment (VRAMP), carried out by an Approved Veterinary Practitioner (AVP). The VRAMP looks specifically at four areas:

- Pre-weaned heifers
- Heifers
- Cows
- Calving area

During the farm visit the AVP scores various aspects of these four different areas producing **OVERALL** **1 TOTALS** for each section. The lower the score for each individual section the better in terms of reducing infection spread (biocontainment) on the farm. The scores received are also benchmarked against other farms completing VRAMPs so that an IJCP member can see how they are performing relative to others in the programme (shown below as percentiles above and below the average). For example, in Figure 3 below, the herd has scored 12/33 for Section 2 heifers (green bar), placing it in

the top 20% of IJCP herds, but 56/80 for pre-weaned heifers (top red bar), placing it in the bottom 10% of IJCP herds. The middle box shows that the overall score has decreased (improved) since 2020, albeit with variation in the scores for each individual section. Finally, the bottom box, benchmarking over time, shows that relative to other IJCP herds, the overall ranking for the herd has improved, moving from being in the bottom 10% in 2020 to around the 30% mark.



Figure 3. Herd summary report Section 7 showing most recent VRAMP score benchmarked against other IJCP herds(top) along with **2** HISTORICAL SCORES and **3** PERCENTILE RANKS for previous programme years.

The herd summary report is a vital tool for any farmer to manage their herd within the IJCP providing detailed summarised information about herd activities relevant to Johne's disease over time. The herd report is also a useful tool for input into any risk assessment made about movement of livestock, especially if interpreted by an AVP. The AVP can use the herd summary report along with their detailed knowledge of Johne's disease epidemiology to provide a professional interpretation of the disease risk.