

**2014
producer
pay schedule**

- January 20
- January 31
- February 20
- February 28
- March 20
- March 31
- April 17
- April 30
- May 20
- May 30
- June 20
- June 30
- July 18
- July 31
- August 20
- August 29
- September 19
- September 30
- October 20
- October 31
- November 20
- November 28
- December 19
- December 31

Johne's Disease - What's the scoop?

Source: Jodi Flaig, Industry Development Coordinator

Dairy producers in Alberta have made great progress in dealing with the production-limiting Johne's disease on their farm. So far, through the recent Alberta Johne's Disease Initiative, 61 per cent of Alberta's dairy producers completed a Risk Assessment and 74 per cent submitted samples for testing.

What did the Risk Assessment (RA) find? A study of the completed RAs revealed the highest risk factor on dairy farms in Alberta is "not removing the calf from the dam promptly after birth." Researchers at the University of Calgary confirm this high risk because the calf is exposed to the dam's manure in the calving pen, which may potentially be infected with MAP (the bacteria which causes Johne's disease).

Another high risk factor on dairy farms is purchasing cattle from a herd or auction with unknown history and no quarantine program. Without the knowledge of the status of your purchased cattle, dairy producers are gambling with the health of their herd. On the other hand, herds that are considered "closed" to new animals are considered to be at lowest risk.

What did the sample testing find? The lab analysis of the environmental samples indicated that 70 per cent of Alberta dairy farms have had one or more positive environmental sample results for Johne's disease over the three years of the program.

What does this mean? With 70 percent of Alberta dairy farms infected with Johne's disease, it is clear that Alberta dairy producers need to be ever-vigilant of the disease risk to their herds. It is important for dairy producers to ensure that they follow the best management practices to reduce the risk of introducing or transmitting Johnes' disease.

What can you do to manage Johne's disease on your farm every year? Dairy producers want to be proactive about the management of their herd's health. You can conduct a RA with your veterinarian every year. This investment of 60 minutes of your time will provide an

excellent overview of the risk of Johne's disease and of other diseases and biosecurity issues on your farm.



Each year's Risk Assessment is an opportunity for you and your veterinarian to monitor improvement, look for new ways of reducing risk and to set goals for next year's biosecurity peace of mind.

Is testing my herd important each year? For a herd that has had negative results for samples in previous years, there is value in confirming that negative status every year. For a herd that has had positive samples in previous years, it is very important to monitor the status of your herd every year and to consult with your herd veterinarian about next steps.

Can I still sign up for a Johne's Disease Risk Assessment (RA)? Dairy producers who never completed a Johne's disease RA are eligible for a \$200 to complete their first RA.

Is there funding assistance available for producers to help with management changes on farm? Producers with a Johne's Disease RA are eligible to apply for funding assistance under the provincial Growing Forward 2 (GF2) Biosecurity Program. Many dairy producers have already applied and GF2 will re-open this funding category on April 1, 2014. Producers are encouraged to begin developing their management plans today so that they will be prepared to make an application for funding assistance next spring.

Have questions? Call the Alberta Johne's Disease Initiative Coordinator, Charlotte Pickel 403-220-7490, Industry Development Coordinator, Jodi Flaig 780-718-5650, or visit albertajohnes.ca.