

# MANAGING JOHNE'S DISEASE IN A DAIRY HERD

If Johne's disease (JD) has been detected in your herd, there are some practices that can be implemented to help with management of the disease.

JD is a notifiable disease and if suspected or confirmed, consultation with your veterinarian on how best to manage the issue in your herd is important.

Things to consider are outlined below:

- Any animals that test positive to JD (including dry cows) should be immediately isolated from JD negative individuals and culled as soon as possible.
- Good herd record keeping is important for identifying and tracing high risk progeny/siblings of JD positive animals and other animals kept with the infected individuals, particularly as calves.
- Individuals identified as high risk (calves and cows) should be isolated from other animals and targeted for regular testing. Remember that individuals can show signs of disease and shed the bacteria in their faeces at different times and in different amounts, although normally not until a few years of age.
- If purchasing cattle, ensure they come from low risk herds (e.g. with a high Johne's Disease Dairy Score (JDDS)).<sup>1</sup>
- Where possible rest paddocks that may be contaminated for up to 12 months. Time may be reduced in hot dry weather.
- Calving paddocks and pens should be rotated to minimise manure build up and kept clean and dry. Calving areas should be checked at least twice daily to remove calves.



- Do not allow young animals to graze in paddocks that have been grazed by adult cows or other high-risk animals, where the bacteria may be present in the soil.
- Ensure high compliance of calf hygiene and cleanliness of all people and equipment used for and near calves.
- Feed calves milk replacer, milk from low-risk cows or pasteurised milk only. Discard any milk contaminated with faeces.
- Keep all feed and water sources elevated to reduce risk of manure contamination.
- Avoid using recycled water and effluent on grazing paddocks.
- Continue to test cows for JD and cull any positive animals.
- Consider vaccination of calves for JD using the Silirum<sup>®</sup> vaccine. Permanent identification of vaccinated animals is required.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.dairyaustralia.com.au/farm/animal-management/animal-health/bovine-johnes-disease>