

# JOHNE'S DISEASE

**If you suspect Johne's disease to be present in your herd, there are a number of control measures which should be discussed with your vet and incorporated in your farm health plan. These include:**

- Isolate all adult animals showing signs of diarrhoea and weight loss.
- Cull animals confirmed to be suffering with Johne's disease, and those animals in which the disease cannot be ruled out.
- Trace the offspring of infected animals and ensure that they are not kept as replacement breeding stock.
- Keep your cows and their environment as clean and free from faecal contamination as possible, especially during the calving period and for the first three months of the calves' lives.
- Prevent faecal contamination of feed and water supplies and keep troughs clean.
- Provide mains water and fence off water sources, particularly areas of stagnant water.
- Spread dung or slurry on arable land. (If this is not possible, grass that has had dung or slurry spread on it should not be grazed, preferably for at least a year following the application.)
- Avoid co-grazing with other livestock that may be infected and control rabbits.
- Ask about CHeCS health schemes and Johne's testing programmes.

Vaccination against Johne's disease is possible but it has serious limitations. It may reduce the number of animals which develop disease or it may delay the onset of clinical signs and reduce their severity but will not necessarily prevent infection with Map or the disease spreading. In addition it may interfere with and complicate the diagnosis of bovine tuberculosis.

**For further details contact BCVA on 01452 740816  
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