



www.dairycrestdirect.co.uk

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Dear DCD Member,

25th November 2015

DCD JOHNES DISEASE INITIATIVE **& MEMBER DECLARATION 2015/16**



www.actionjohnesuk.org

During 2010 DCD took a lead in raising awareness of this devastating cattle disease to our membership, we followed this up last year with the launch of a further initiative and a return of an annual declaration signed off in consultation with your own vet. Well over 90% of the membership returned a signed declaration, demonstrating vet involvement within active control and monitoring measures to control Johnes Disease (JD) in DCD members' herds.

We are again promoting a further initiative and testing offer to seek full DCD involvement to dovetail with the nationwide Johnes Disease (JD) campaign. The focus of the latest campaign is on the economic damage that JD can inflict on dairy herds. This set against milk price returns being under as great pressure as they are, promoting JD heightened awareness and greater monitoring and control measures on farm will help the 'bottom line' returns.

Davidstow Farm Standards

Compliance with a Johnes Disease testing/management implementation programme is also a requirement of the Protocols Section within the Davidstow Farm Standards. So a 2015/16 vet signed declaration will be a requirement to replace the 2014 declaration used previously.

We have also included a copy of the latest AHDB Dairy biosecurity protocol required for cattle purchases, also a requirement of the Protocol section of Davidstow Farm Standards. One of the most common ways of introducing JD into your herd is by 'buying it in' through infected stock - so following the Biosecurity protocol will provide additional safeguards.

Fortunately very few farmers see clinical cases of JD. Cows with JD are likely to have been culled already due to other 'problems', e.g. mastitis, high SCC, poor yields, or lameness and so are culled for underlying JD symptoms before they become clinically ill with JD itself.



Johnes Disease (JD) - transmission and impact

JD is usually transmitted from 'cow to calf', predominately through contact with faeces (including dirty teats), but also through colostrum, milk and in-utero spread (during pregnancy). It is most commonly introduced into a herd through the purchasing of infected stock, sourced from within the UK, or from abroad.

JD Impact:

- ***Infection of calves within the first month of life, often within the first 24 hours.***
- ***Increased SCC and levels of clinical mastitis***
- ***Increased lameness, up to 5x more likely to be lame***
- ***Milk production losses can be significant, reduced lifetime yields***
- ***Reduced fertility, more services to conception***
- ***Weight loss, early culling, loss of valuable herd genetic potential***

In summary, the economic impact on JD infected herds can be extremely severe.

The broader issues that are also potentially at stake for the UK dairy industry also remain uppermost within the latest campaign. Internationally, all major dairying nations (i.e. Ireland, Holland, Denmark & other EU member states and beyond) are involved in widespread monitoring, screening and prevention programs, and so it is imperative that the UK industry also engages fully with this activity. At the 2015 Semex Conference earlier this year, JD was highlighted as one of the very major threats facing the UK dairy industry - with the need for all dairy farmers to take this risk seriously and to engage in active monitoring and control programs.

DCD JD Campaign

We wish to ensure that DCD members across all supply contracts have JD prevalence monitoring and prevention protocols as part of their Herd Health plan in partnership with their vet. To manage this disease is an important measure that DCD advocates. Please see the following offer to help with JD monitoring on farm.

Testing for JD within your herd is a pre requisite to recognising and identifying the prevailing risks. In previous years we have focused on a 30 cow screening as a 'first step' in monitoring JD prevalence. Whilst this is a useful initial approach, we also recognise that a large number of members already utilise a full quarterly milk testing regime, and so we wished to seek a promotional offer to progress towards whole herd screening, six months apart, as this will provide a more comprehensive view of JD monitoring within the herd.

Therefore we have negotiated with NMR the following JD discounted testing package:

EXCLUSIVE NMR OFFER TO DCD MEMBERS - CLOSING 29TH FEB 2016

DISCOUNTED WHOLE HERD SCREENING OFFER - *see voucher on page 4*

Cow/samples	Normal Price £/sample	DCD Offer £/sample
Fewer than 50	£3.25	£2.77
50 - 99	£2.60	£2.21
100 - 149	£2.44	£2.08
150 - 199	£2.31	£1.97
200+	£2.17	£1.85



Conditions:

- Prices exclude VAT
- Offers up to a 15% discount on usual rates
- Commitment for herd to be tested twice, with a 6 month interval
- Quote the DCD offer when ordering - phone to arrange samples **01902 749920**
- If already recording with NMR, but not as yet JD testing, also ask your recorder at the next visit
- Offer extended to 29th February 2016 - to allow all even in TB 60 day testing regimes to access the offer.

JD Monitoring by milk samples:

Testing through individual milk samples is a reliable and trusted method to determine prevalence, and trusted internationally for 8 years+ to detect JD.

If you don't currently milk record, and you still wish to monitor through a 30 cow screen, all recording agencies still offer this as a 'first step' to determine prevalence. Talk to your vet to agree which is the best testing regime to suit your herd and situation.

TB and Johnes Testing?

If your herd is regularly being tested for TB, care is required to ensure that at least 42 DAYS has elapsed following a TB test before Johnes Testing. Many herds across the UK manage their JD testing quarterly despite TB testing every 60 days, the recording agencies are prepared to be flexible to enable effective JD milk sampling to be carried out.

Tested, Results, What Next? JD Protocols

Once you have your test results, you have the key identification tool to discuss with your vet on how to 'manage and protect' from JD issues in your herd.

- Identification of any 'red/amber' cows - so all staff know which are 'JD High Risk' cows.
- Segregation of 'JD High Risk' cows at calving.
- Don't pool colostrum or milk from unknown JD status cows
- Breeding to beef, or cull 'red cows'
- Repeat testing to monitor ongoing position
- Don't 'buy in' JD through cattle purchases

See: www.actionjohnesuk.org for more information

DCD Member Declaration:

DCD's delivery of a robust JD awareness and action strategy across the membership is of increasing importance in all of our dairy supply chains. We hope that this latest DCD initiative will again stimulate widespread engagement into JD controls on farm.

DCD does not seek any farm results data, these remain confidential between you and your recording agency. Please complete the enclosed declaration, with vet signature to confirm that a JD programme is in place on farm; return by 29TH FEBRUARY 2016.

Please retain a copy of your 2015/16 vet signed declaration and the Biosecurity Checklist to use for your next Davidstow Farm Standards audit

Summary:

DCD hopes that it can count on your support to fully engage in this industry initiative. If all can adopt a JD control plan on farm, this will not only help the economic sustainability of individual dairy units, but also provide enhanced assurance in our collective milk trading environment where customers are increasingly seeking greater evidence of supply chain JD measures..

Yours sincerely,

Michael Masters
DCD Company Secretary

Enclosures

- Biosecurity Checklist - for cattle purchases from home or abroad
- Member JD Declaration - to be completed, signed, returned 290216



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2015/16 DCD JOHNES DISEASE - MEMBER DECLARATION

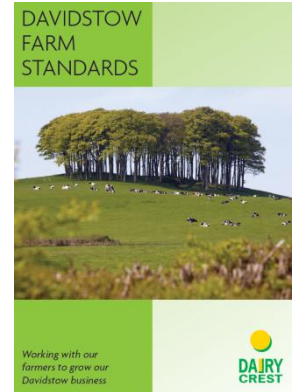


PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING DECLARATION WITH YOUR VET AND RETURN BY 29th FEBRUARY 2016

Name:

Supply Number:

Address:



DECLARATION:

I can confirm that I am participating in ongoing Johne's Disease surveillance, and adopting JD 'management and protect' protocols in consultation with my vet.

<u>JOHNES DISEASE PROTOCOLS:</u>		<u>Frequency</u> Quarterly Twice Yearly Annually	<u>Date</u> Latest test
30 cow screening			
Whole herd individual milk testing			
Whole herd individual blood testing			
Adopted JD management and protect protocols with my vet		Please circle Yes/no	
Adopt the biosecurity checklist for cattle introductions to the herd		Please circle Yes/no	
Other comments, or variations on the above - please list below:			

Vet signature:

Farmer signature:

Vet name (print please):

Farmer name:

Practice name:

Date:

Please return by 29TH FEBRUARY 2016:

Post: DCD Office, Edgarley Farm, Glastonbury, Somerset, BA6 8LE.
Scan & Email: m.masters@dairycrestdirect.co.uk

PLEASE ALSO RETAIN A COPY OF THIS DECLARATION FOR YOUR DAVIDSTOW FARM STANDARDS AUDIT

LAB USE ONLY:
DCD Batch Ending



Winter 2015 Johne's Testing Voucher

15% discount on whole herd, biannual Johne's testing for DCD herds. Valid until 29th February 2016.

NMR Recording Herds



Include this voucher with your milk recording samples,
along with a blue submission form, to apply for this offer.

Please note:

- This voucher **MUST** be submitted with your milk recording samples to sign-up to testing, along with a blue NMR submission form
- Testing should be at least 42 days clear of your last TB test
- This offer is applicable to whole-herd screening only. Selected cow numbers will not be accepted
- Signing up to this offer is committing to a biannual Johne's screening
- Valid until 29th February 2016

If you are not an NMR milk recording customer but would like to take up this Johne's testing offer, we can send you a sampling kit in the post.

Please call NML on 01902 749920 to request a kit.