

## LARGE ANIMAL NEWSLETTER – JULY 2000

**JOHNES DISEASE program and change in Implied Warranty Law becomes effective July 1, 2000.** Recent changes in the Implied Warranty Law for Johnes's disease were passed unopposed by both House and Senate. Only cattle and goats will be covered by the Implied Warranty Law with respect to Johnes's disease at this time. An owner will have two options when selling cattle or goats: (1) Do nothing and imply the animal is free of Johnes's disease. Those cattle will be considered maximum risk, or (2) Disclose in writing, a management classification as described by current rules based on herd tests conducted.

Producers can start testing now for the upcoming Preventive Management Classification Program, in which herds will be given a classification based on percent of animals which are infected based on testing. If owners wish to do split herd testing, the test plan must be in writing and pre-approved by the Department of Animal Health.

Due to **industry demand** that Johnes's positive animals be identified somehow, after July 1, 2000 all cattle and goats that test positive for Johnes's disease will be required to be permanently identified in the left ear with a **J punch**. Accredited veterinarians are required to do the identification within 30 days of receipt of test results unless a confirmatory fecal culture test is performed on the positive animal within the 30 days. Official identification must match previous official identification of the animal. If the confirmatory test is positive, the veterinarian then has 30 days to J punch the animal. Only official identification numbers (metal ear tag or registration number) will be accepted for identification. Tests should be taken by a veterinarian.

**Owners may not move a Johnes's positive unless the veterinarian first J punches the animal.** The owner may then sell the animal for slaughter or sell to a buyer with written disclosure that the animal is Johnes's positive. If animals are sold for interstate movement, the state of destination must be contacted for requirements prior to shipment. There are also federal regulations governing the movement of positive animals interstate.

Producers with animals for sale may have their Johnes's status made public by contacting the Department of Animal Health. This will allow producers with herd Johnes's ratings to take advantage of their status and improve animal marketing abilities. The day is coming where animal or herd Johnes's status will be important. Currently, positive animals can be sold to slaughter. That is how the vast majority of Johnes's animals end up. That may not always be true. Some day those animals may be considered unfit for human consumption.

**Why test for Johnes's disease?** (1) You have purebred animals and marketing is important for your herd. (2) You have Johnes's disease, and you want to make it a controlled issue in your herd instead of a big problem issue. (3) You may be planning on selling your herd in several years and want to improve your herd rating before sale.

**Think you don't have Johnes's?** We find very few negative herds. The test does have false negative and occasional false positives. Most animals testing positive eventually

break with disease - it may take several years for that to happen. Identifying the disease in your herd allows you to control where those animals are, and control spread to calves.

**J5 vaccination in your herd:** The wet weather this summer has made the incidence of E. coli mastitis unusually high compared to the last several years. Make sure that your program is kept up to date. Jvac versus J5 vaccine? Both work well and will booster off of each other. We find a substantially higher incidence of adverse reactions/off-feeds with Jvac use. As a result our practice uses J5 vaccine.

**Welcome to the group!** Some of you may have noticed a new voice on the phone. Jessica Scholl has joined the group of office personnel performing a wide variety of tasks in the office. We're glad to have her as part of the team.

**Contratulations!** Ginny Mesar and her husband Lenny have been blessed with a baby girl. Lauren Tyler was born Tuesday June 6. We wish the best for Ginny, Lenny, and sister Jessica with their new adventure at home!

**GVS STAFF**

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