

September 2006

EPRINEX®: Fall is here again and that means looking toward Eprinex® purchases. Yes milk prices are down, however cutting parasite control just adds one more drain on your cattle. Lice pose the biggest drain on cows, cutting production and leading to more stepped-on teats from cows dancing around in their stalls because they itch. Worms are a guaranteed problem for heifers, particularly any that live on dirt. This fall's prices are great: 5 liter quantity @ \$296, 2.5L @ \$183, and 20L quantity @ \$1132. **And note that accounts in the 'current' status will get their extra 5% reduction.**

CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAY: Come and join us September 14 from 11:00 – 2:00 for lunch and a time to visit. Lunch will be roasted pork loin sandwiches, and I'm sure the weather will be great. If you're in the fields, take time to stop to eat and take a break. We're not far away!

JOHNES' OPPORTUNITY! Let's face it-Johnes' disease is a problem in many dairy herds. The most important thing for any cattle operation is to acknowledge that fact. The Dept of Ag has a program that dairies can undergo called a Risk Assessment. These have been available now for 2 years, and they have made a positive impact on Johnes' control. *The most important point for herds testing under the Johnes' classification program is that risk assessments are no longer optional.* **All herds testing under the classification program MUST complete a risk assessment in 2006 to be eligible for reimbursement for 2007 testing.** Why? Because it has been proven that simply routinely blood testing for Johnes' is NOT proven to reduce the incidence of the disease in your herd. And if you're not lowering the incidence, then most likely Johnes' is on the rise in your herd.

Risk assessments cost you as a dairyman **NOTHING**, except the time it takes to complete it with a Johnes' certified veterinarian (Dr Al and Dr Nathan). Johnes risk assessments **PAY you** if you blood test aside from the certification program. If you complete an assessment this fall, you are eligible for up to **\$300 in reimbursement** for any testing done between July 1 and early December.

Risk assessments are an educational tool designed to fully inform you about the risks of the spread of Johnes', and they pin point where the greatest risks are at on your farm! Risk assessments allow you to develop a 'management plan' aimed at eliminating or reducing your areas of greatest risk for the spread of Johnes'.

The program has 'built in' provision for risk assessment reviews on an annual basis to see where you were and look at where you're going in Johnes' control. Participating dairymen have found the program to be very informative, and the renewals an excellent review of where their dairy stands with respect to the disease and its control. These visits are scheduled around your timetable. All you have to do is make the time.