State of Wisconsin, Jim Doyle, Governor
Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection
Rod Nilsestuen, Secretary
Division of Animal Health

WI Johne's Disease Control Program

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September/2009

Greetings!

See below for important updates, reminders, and reviews regarding the Wisconsin Johne's Disease Control Program.

2009 Producer Reimbursement

Producer Notifications Sent

Letters to producers were sent this week to alert them to the funding for which they are eligible for reimbursement for 2009 costs related to Johne's disease control in their herds.

Producer reimbursement allotments were determined based on federal funding alone for this year. Producers are eligible for reimbursement for their annual renewal RAMPs for up to $100 as well as up to 75% of other eligible Johne's disease management costs. This year that translates to up to $1.10 per head for other eligible costs. Additional funds may become available depending on what transpires with state funding.

Please encourage your producers to submit their clearly itemized receipts as soon as they can if they have not already.

Producers who have not yet applied for reimbursement can still submit an application to be eligible for residual funding - if available - for calender year 2009. These clients should submit the following as soon as they can up to February 1, 2010:

- 2009 Johne's Disease Control Reimbursement Application
- W-9 form
- clearly itemized receipts
- maintain annual RAMP renewal

Alternative Testing Options

Although serum and milk ELISAs are the most commonly used diagnostic tests in Johne's disease control programs, other testing options may be appropriate for some herds. Vaccinating herds are precluded from the use of ELISA testing, and whole herd ELISA testing may not be economically feasible for some herds. Consider the history and goals of each farm when developing their testing strategy.

Innovative options -

- Environmental culture/PCR of several key areas to determine if MAP is present
- Environmental culture/PCR of one specific area such as the calving area to highlight an area of risk
- Pooled culture/PCR of low prevalence or vaccinating herds may be a viable testing strategy

Specific protocols are required for classification as specified in the Uniform Program Standards. However, if classification is not the goal, different testing strategies can be used to achieve a particular purpose.

See the Consensus Recommendations for more ideas on testing options based on your herd owners' goals.

RAMP Renewals -

Keeping It Fresh

THANK YOU to everyone who performs RAMP renewals for their producers and completes the paperwork on their behalf. We understand the process and paperwork can feel a bit tedious over time.

The RAMP renewal forms are designed to provide you, the veterinarian, with the framework in which to offer your expertise in assessing the new and ongoing risks unique to each individual farm. Then use that information, together with your producer's input on their goals, outcomes of previous management efforts, and current resources to identify a practical, affordable plan for the next 12 months.

The strength of any risk assessment tool does not come from the form itself, but from the melding of the knowledge in disease control that you, as the animal health advisor, bring to the table with the resources, ideas, and abilities that your producer can offer to meet his or her specific goals. Success in achieving those goals requires a regular review of past results and planning for the future.

Consider the following:

- Highlight the positive effects a good Johne's disease control program has on control of other diseases
- If your producer is doing well, you can use the form to reinforce continued use of important management practices
- And yes, even in our vaccinating herds, it is important for producers to stick with their commitment to make feasible management changes that minimize exposure of young stock to MAP

Keep up the hard work to help your clients reduce the impact of this costly disease and to achieve their individual herd goals! Your efforts do make a difference!

Thanks to your efforts, there are currently:

- 300 Bovine RAMP Certified Veterinarians
- 25 Caprine RAMP Certified Veterinarians
- 225 Vaccine Certified Veterinarians
- 1362 Herds with Active RAMPs
- 348 Classified Herds
- 491 Vaccinating Herds

But, as you all know, no matter how much work is done, there is always more to do....

Good Luck Debbie!!

Many of you may already be aware that Debbie Elliott, on whose expertise we have all come to rely, will be retiring in early October.
Her last work days will be the week starting October 5, 2009. Although we will all sorely miss Debbie, we wish her the very best on her retirement!

You may continue to reach Debbie at 608-224-4893 until her retirement. This same phone number is already and will continue to be in use by the Johne's Disease Control Program as a general number. Messages left at this number

will be checked multiple times daily. You may also e-mail DATCPJohnes@wi.gov.

Please feel free to contact us at DATCPJohnes@wi.gov or 608-224-4893 with any questions about the Wisconsin Johne's Disease Control Program or suggestions for future newsletters.

Sincerely,

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Wisconsin Dept. of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection
Division of Animal Health

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