



general news

Johne's survey: it's not too late to respond

Johne's disease affects not only deer, but also other ruminants such as cattle, sheep and goats. While a significant amount of research has been carried out both in New Zealand and internationally into this chronic, contagious and sometimes fatal infection, the disease remains difficult to control and can be extremely costly for those who are affected.

The Johne's Disease Research Consortium (JDRC) is a newly formed initiative partnering the beef, sheep, dairy and deer industries with the Johne's research community. The aim is to speed the development of efficient and effective tools that will help farmers control and reduce the prevalence of the disease.

Earlier this year, JDRC researchers from Massey University sent out a survey to a number of beef, sheep, dairy and deer farmers in the Wairarapa, Hawke's Bay, Taranaki, Manawatu-Wanganui, Canterbury, West Coast, and Southland looking at the incidence of Johne's disease. The survey also includes questions about leptospirosis, a bacterial disease that affects both animals and humans. The survey will help JDRC develop an understanding of the prevalence of these diseases in New Zealand and guide our

JOHNE'S DISEASE
RESEARCH CONSORTIUM

*Research into Johne's Disease and Leptospirosis
in New Zealand*

Farm health and production Survey

"Help to control Johne's disease and Leptospirosis, and reduce the risk of Leptospirosis among farmers, their families and workers"

DairyNZ

DEER INDUSTRY
NEW ZEALAND

MEAT & WOOL
NEW ZEALAND

work into developing techniques to reduce production loss and thereby increase farm productivity. The information from the survey is strictly confidential and will not in any way affect the privacy of individual farmers, practice clients or veterinarians.

If you have already seen and returned the survey, thank you very much. You are in the draw to win one of three portable DVD players. If you have not seen a survey and would like to participate, there is still a chance to enter the draw. Please contact the JDRC researchers to have a survey sent to you.

Contact:

- C.verdugo@massey.ac.nz or
c.heuer@massey.ac.nz
Phone 06 350 5903 or 06 350 5948



Meat & Wool New Zealand supports Johne's Disease and Leptospirosis research

Johne's disease (pronounced yo-knees) is a chronic, contagious and sometimes fatal infection that affects the small intestine of ruminant animals such as cattle, sheep, goats and deer. Significant research has been carried out both in New Zealand and internationally, but the disease remains difficult to control. Each year its impact on animal health and production is estimated to cost up to \$88 million in New Zealand alone.

"The Johne's Disease Research Consortium is a new approach that brings together the Johne's disease research community," says Consortium Manager, Kaylene Larking. "It will speed up the development of efficient and effective tools that will help farmers control and reduce the prevalence of the disease.

Meat & Wool New Zealand is a participant in the consortium, which formed in July 2008, together with DairyNZ, DEEResearch, Massey University, Livestock Improvement Corporation, AgResearch and the University of Otago. The Meat Industry Association and Dairy Companies Association of New Zealand are associate participants.

Farm health and production survey

Earlier this year Consortium researchers from Massey University sent out a survey to a number of farmers in Wairarapa, Hawkes Bay, Taranaki, Manawatu-Wanganui, Canterbury, West Coast and Southland.

The survey asks farmers about herd details, animal

demographics, production performance and the incidence of Johne's disease. The survey also includes questions about Leptospirosis, a bacterial disease that affects both animals and humans.

The survey is a key tool to help the Consortium develop a better understanding of the prevalence of these diseases in New Zealand, and guide the development of techniques to reduce production loss and increase farm productivity.

Faecal and blood samples will be collected from approximately 300 farms that respond to the survey and agree to participate. Additional studies will be performed at a later stage to evaluate infection sources like neighbouring farms, farms providing replacement animals and wildlife, and to test control strategies.

The information from the survey is strictly confidential and will not in any way affect the privacy of individual farmers, practice clients or veterinarians.

Participating in the survey

If you have seen and returned the survey, thank you very much. You are in the draw to win 1 of 3 portable DVD players. If you have not seen a survey and would like to participate, contact Consortium researchers Cristobal Verdugo on c.verdugo@massey.ac.nz or 06 350 5903, or Cord Heuer on c.heuer@massey.ac.nz or 06 350 5948.



JOHNE'S DISEASE RESEARCH CONSORTIUM (JDRC)

Stagline—online

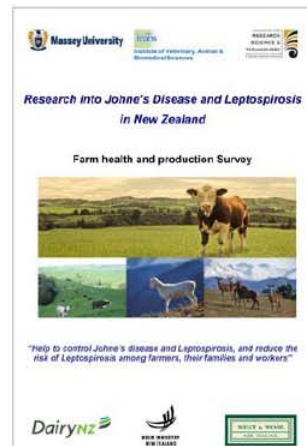
Official online publication of the NZDFA

Johne's disease is a chronic, contagious and sometimes fatal infection that affects the small intestine of ruminant animals such as cattle, sheep, goats and deer. While a significant amount of research has been carried out both in New Zealand and internationally, the disease remains difficult to control and can be extremely costly for those who are impacted.

The Johne's Disease Research Consortium (JDRC) is a newly formed initiative partnering the beef, sheep, dairy and deer industries with the Johne's research community with the aim of speeding the development of efficient and effective tools that will help farmers control and reduce the prevalence of the disease.

Have you seen our survey?

Earlier this year JDRC researchers from Massey University sent out a survey to a number of beef, sheep, dairy and deer farmers in the Wairarapa, Hawkes Bay, Taranaki, Manawatu-Wanganui, Canterbury, West Coast, and Southland looking at the incidence of Johne's disease. This farm health and production survey also includes questions about Leptospirosis, a bacterial disease that affects both animals and humans. The survey is a key tool to help JDRC develop an understanding of the prevalence of these diseases in New Zealand and guide our work into developing techniques to reduce production loss and thereby increase farm productivity. The information from the survey is strictly confidential and will not in any way affect the privacy of individual farmers, practice clients or veterinarians.



Completion of the survey is step 1 in a three part study into the prevalence of Johne's and Leptospirosis in New Zealand, under JDRC's Epidemiology Programme. The researchers are looking for responses from commercial cattle, sheep and deer farmers regarding herd details and animal demographics, production performance and evidence of both clinical Johne's disease and Leptospirosis on-farm. It is intended that the data from this survey will be collated and reported back to farmers by 2010. Step 2 of the study involves the collection of faecal and blood samples from approximately 300 farms that have responded to the survey and have agreed to further participate in the study. Samples will be recovered from all species (cattle, deer and sheep) on-farm to confirm the presence or absence of the disease. In the third and final step JDRC researchers will follow up with selected farms where Johne's Disease has been identified, to look for sources of the infection (e.g. replacement animals, wildlife) and to work with the farmers involved to test control strategies for reducing the prevalence of the disease on their farm. The goal of the study is to provide practical on-farm solutions for herd management that will reduce the prevalence of Johne's disease in New Zealand and filling in the survey is your chance to help us achieve this.

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