



## **ACTION GROUP ON JOHNE'S ANNOUNCES TIMELINE FOR COMPLIANCE WITH NATIONAL JOHNE'S MANAGEMENT PLAN**

*London, 3<sup>rd</sup> October* – **The Action Group on Johne's set strict deadlines for scheme compliance with member milk processors to help catalyse the management of Johne's disease on UK dairy farms.**

Having launched Phase II of the National Johne's Management Plan earlier this year, the Action Johne's Steering Group (including Dairy UK, NFU, AHDB and BCVA) in consultation with its milk processor members have set deadlines for compliance with the industry strategy which seeks to have 95% of the dairy supply in Great Britain brought into the National Johne's Management Plan by December 2019.

It was agreed:

- A formal veterinary declaration needs to be signed by the farmer and his/her vet to state that an assessment of Johne's risk and status has been undertaken on each farm in the last 12 months and that there is a written Johne's management plan in place which has been agreed with the herd owner.
- By October 2018 all farmers supplying purchaser members of the scheme will need to have completed the declaration.
- From November 2019 the level of engagement achieved by purchaser members will be made publicly available on the Action Johne's website.

Lyndon Edwards, Chair of the Action Group on Johne's said: "With over 620 vets accredited by the BCVA as trained in Johne's veterinary advice and over 82% of the GB milk supply pool already within the Action Johne's initiative, the time is right to set the deadlines for compliance. With the new Red Tractor standards out this month, which also example having a Johne's plan for infectious disease management, we look forward to helping the industry work together to manage this issue on farm.

Mr Edwards added, "We have seen great steps forward in the awareness of the National Johne's Management Plan so far; we look forward to the continuing engagement and support of the industry. The NJMP plan will help reduce the prevalence on Johne's on farm to provide future sustainability for the producers and the whole supply chain and also provide opportunities for future trade in an increasingly competitive market."

Ends.

For more information, interviews or conference press passes contact Jo Holdom or Sharon Foxwell on 01392 278801 or email [sharon-jo@onevoicemedia.co.uk](mailto:sharon-jo@onevoicemedia.co.uk)

### **About the Action Group on Johne's**

- The Action Johne's Initiative is the implementation of the National Johne's Management Plan. The plan is overseen by the Action Group on Johne's which is the industry committee, supported by Dairy UK, which takes the lead on pushing forward Johne's management in the UK. The Group consists of organisations from the industry supply chain that are committed to tackling Johne's disease.
- Materials and resources to support the National Johne's Management Plan, as well as its full membership can be found on [www.actionjohnesuk.org](http://www.actionjohnesuk.org)

- Prior to the end of December 2017 processors will have the option of collecting information on farmer participation by using the existing scheme questionnaire. Thereafter only the veterinary declaration can be used.