



National Johne's Management Plan: Dairy farmers in Great Britain committed to Johne's disease control, preliminary data shows

The Action Group on Johne's has published encouraging preliminary data from Phase 2 of the National Johne's Management Plan (NJMP) showing that to date, processors in the Johne's scheme have obtained signed declarations from over 90% of their supplying dairy farmers. These declarations are signed in conjunction with a BCVA Accredited Johne's Veterinary Adviser (BAJVA) confirming the producer will be implementing one of the six control strategies specified by the National Johne's Management Plan.

Chair of the Action Group on Johne's, Lyndon Edwards said: "This is truly a major result for an industry led initiative. It means we have a degree of active engagement in Johne's control that puts the country in the front rank globally. It shows that close collaboration between farmers and vets backed up by supply chain commitments can deliver on endemic disease control".

"We've still got a long way to go in tackling Johne's but we now have an excellent foundation to build on".

Also commenting on the outcome, Pete Orpin, Chair of the Johne's Technical Group said: "It's a great result. The industry has now collectively invested significantly in tackling Johne's disease control and this will continue to increase with growing implications for the way farmers manage their farms, implement biosecurity and trade cattle."

Phase 1 of the NJMP, primarily focussed on education and engagement with the NJMP. Phase 2 of the NJMP formally started in February 2017 and requested that by 31st October 2018, all associated farmers supplying the member milk purchaser companies were required to return a declaration to confirm that in conjunction with a BAJVA the farmer had:

- undertaken to assess their risks and herd status and,



- put in place the necessary management information, equipment, husbandry and resources to implement the agreed control strategy

The current preliminary data shows that the following control strategies have been implemented in conjunction with their BAJVA:

Strategy	Number of producers	Percentage of producers
Control strategy unknown*	2780	48.96%
Biosecurity: protect and monitor	301	5.30%
Improved farm management	133	2.34%
Improved farm management and strategic testing	1459	25.70%
Improved farm management test and cull	795	14.00%
Breed to terminal sire	201	3.54%
Firebreak vaccination	9	0.16%
TOTAL	5678	

*The control strategy may be unknown due to a previous version of the NJMP declaration form being used by the producer, this didn't request this information to be declared

The success of the Action Johne's initiative will be assessed at the Action Johne's conference on the 30th January 2019 at the Sixways Stadium, Worcester.

A copy of the 2019 declaration will be made available to milk purchaser members and BAJVA's shortly. Following the 2019 deadline, compliance rates for each milk purchaser member will be released by the Action Group on Johne's, meaning vets will need to work together with their farm clients to undergo the steps required ahead of the deadline.