

# **J** **HNE'S** **Buying Guide**

**Johne's disease is a slow onset disease that reduces the production efficiency of your herd through lower yields, higher disease and premature culling**

**Johne's disease is almost always introduced to a herd by purchasing infected replacement breeding stock (including bulls).**

**Buying wisely will reduce the risk of introducing animals with Johne's disease to your herd. This is clearly of vital importance for herds with no or very little Johne's disease, but also helps herds with a significant number of Johne's disease positive animals.**

**This guide should not be used in isolation but as part of an overall biosecurity plan for the farm.**

# Johne's Disease

## Help Break the Cycle of Infection!

Ensure you have  
a Johne's Disease  
Management  
Plan in place

Always consider  
Johne's Disease risk  
before you  
purchase

Plan all  
purchases with  
your vet

- Before you think about buying in stock – do you know what the Johne's disease status is on your own farm? Have you a plan in place to manage it?
- Consider the risk gradient when you are buying stock in: do the animals you want to purchase have less risk of having Johne's disease than your own? How do you know?
- If the animals you are buying have been tested, request the results of the Johne's disease herd tests carried out in the past year and discuss these with your vet. Remember that where there is a history of regular herd testing then the results will give a very much better indication of the Johne's disease status of the herd than a one off herd test.
- Infected youngstock (including in calf and calved heifers as well as calves) usually test negative and it is therefore important to know the status of the herd of origin and whether the farm has a Johne's disease Management Plan and what this is.
- If the vendor is unaware of his status or is not willing to answer, then consider the animals to be of high risk.
- If cattle have been purchased, use the best screening tests to identify any Johne's disease cases quickly: treat animals of unknown status as high risk.

# Johne's Disease

## Ask These Questions!

<b>LOW RISK</b>	<b>MEDIUM RISK</b>	<b>HIGH RISK</b>
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**Does the source herd have a Johne's disease Management Plan in place?**

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Is it a robust, veterinary led management plan? How long has it been in place?  
The more robust the plan, and the longer it has been in place, the better the score.

**Does the source herd have Johne's CHeCS accreditation?**

If yes, what is their CHeCS accredited Level? (see Levels on diagram x)

<b>Level 1</b>	<b>Level 2</b>	<b>Level 3</b>	<b>Level 4</b>	<b>Level 5</b>
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**What type of screening does the herd undertake?**

<b>Whole herd</b>	<b>Selected animal (e.g. 30 cow)</b>	<b>Bulk milk</b>	<b>None</b>
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**When was the last screen?**

<b>Within 3 months</b>	<b>3-6 months</b>	<b>6-12 months or longer</b>
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**What were the results of the last screen?**

Discuss all screening test results with your vet

**When were animals last purchased onto the vendor's farm?**

Discuss with your vet: a monitored closed herd is much safer than one that regularly buys animals

**Has the source herd ever vaccinated for Johne's disease?**

If yes, there is a significant risk of purchasing already infected animals and of complications in interpretation of future test results; consult your vet.

**QUESTION YOURSELF: How can I fit these animals into my Johne's disease Management Plan?**

Action on Johne's is supported by the following organisations (please also see our website):



**J ACTION HNE'S**

[www.actionjohnesuk.org](http://www.actionjohnesuk.org)