

# **National Johnne's Management Plan**

## **Stage One: Results and Learning**

Sophie Throup: Action Johnne's Delivery Team

# National Johne's Management Plan – history

Collaboration and working together



## National Johne's Management Plan – history

2010: DairyUK form stakeholder group



## National Johnes's Management Plan – history

- 2010: NJAG – encourage surveillance and consistent messages
- 2013: CHeCs – risk based categorisation model
- 2014: RDPE training – Johnes's included in delivery
- 2015: NJAG brief two phase approach as a National Johnes Management Plan

**NJMP: Phase 1 – 01.04.15 – 30.09.16**

**PLAN delivery:**

Action Johnne's Delivery team appointed

Consortium of RAFT Solutions, SAC Vet Services, XLVets



## **NJMP: Phase 1 – 01.04.15 – 30.09.16**

### **PLAN objective:**

To manage and then reduce the incidence of Johne's disease in dairy cattle and engage 80% of dairy farmers in Great Britain in credible and robust Johne's management activities.

- Processor engagement and communications

# **NJMP: Phase 1: Purchasers**

# NJMP: Phase 1: Purchasers

- a. recruit organisations covering at least 80% of GB milk production
- b. and a minimum of 15 of the 20 largest organisations eligible for membership

## Results to end of phase 1:

- a. 82% of GB milk production**
- b. 25 milk purchaser have become members**  
(15 of these - min 70 million litres)  
(engaged with 120 milk purchasers to date)



# NJMP: Ph1: Purchasers



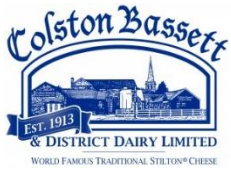
Members (25) – 82% of UK milk production



# NJMP: Ph1: Purchasers



## Members (signing up shortly)



# NJMP: Ph1: Purchasers



## Relationship building to set the foundations for phase 2

- Recruitment and ongoing support meetings
- Presenting at Purchaser-Farmer meetings
- Email Communication: welcome letter, support offered, newsletters sent, milestones agreed, questionnaire requests
- Ongoing telephone support

# NJMP: Ph1: Purchasers



Assess Johnne's risk and status by

~~1<sup>st</sup> April 2016~~

**31<sup>st</sup> December 2016**

- Members have come on board throughout Phase1
- Delivery team gathering surveys currently (until 31.12.16)

## **Update so far:**

<b>No. Milk Purchasers</b>	<b>Suppliers assessing health status</b>
8	80 – 100%
4	54 – 70%
3	20%

# NJMP: Ph1: Purchasers



## Examples of activity:



Surveyed farmers; ran Johne's workshops March to June' 16



Farmer meeting held with Johne's team; surveying farmers on activity



30 cow screens with suppliers to confirm status; meeting and engagement with vets encouraged



Action Johne's team presented to 70 farmers on the NJMP; surveys sent



Encouraged all members to do a whole herd Johne's screening, agree Johne's protocol with vet and return a vet-signed declaration

# **NJMP: Phase 1: Communication and training**

# Phase 1: Communications:



Objective: Educate farmers on the disease and the feasibility of its control

Ensuring the scheme and scheme website provides coherent and comprehensive information

to provide farmers with the capacity to

- determine their risk profile and Johnes status
- implement on-farm measures to control and prevent the disease

# Phase 1: Communications:



1. Biosecurity Protect and Monitor

2. Improved Farm Management

3. Improved Farm Management and strategic testing

4. Improved Farm Management, Test and cull

5. Breed to a terminal sire

6. Firebreak vaccination



# Phase 1: Communications:



Objective: Educate farmers on the disease and the feasibility of its control

Method : consistent messages

- 6 strategies defined by National Johne's Technical Steering Group
- Over-riding communication: work with your farm vet

**So, what can I do about prevention and control of Johne's disease on my farm?**

Whatever your farm type, there is a strategy to suit you. Work in partnership with your vet to implement the correct measures for your herd, from the six strategies identified by the National Action Johne's Group.

# Phase 1: Communications:



Objective: Educate farmers on the disease and the feasibility of its control

Method : veterinary education – BCVA veterinary training

- Webinar training – 3 modules and exam
- 100% to pass
- To date (19.10.16):
  - 475 registered to do the training
  - 472 vets have passed to become a BCVA accredited Johne's veterinary adviser



# Phase 1: Communications:



## BCVA vet training

## Profiled on website

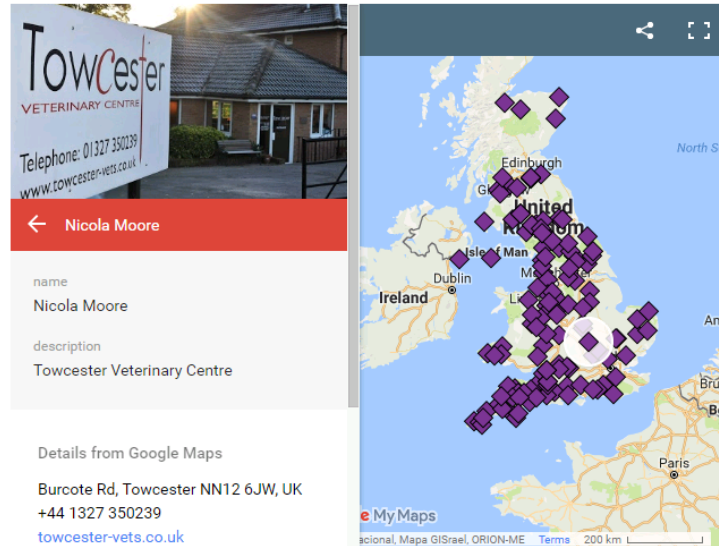
For trainees also:

- Emailed presentations
- Offered support for meetings
- Encouraged interaction
- Some have created links to Johne's website on own vet practice website



## BCVA Action Johne's Accredited Veterinary Advisors

You are here: Home / BCVA Action Johne's Accredited Veterinary Advisors



# Phase 1: Communications:



**BCVA Accredited vets: delivered farmer meetings**



# Phase 1: Communications:



## Additional needs :

- Website
- Consistent materials
- Telephone and email support contact
- Newsletters
- Support for shows and events
- Support post veterinary training (BCVA)
- Press articles / liaison with press

# Phase 1: Communications:



## J ACTION 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.

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

## 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

## J ACTION HNE'S Disease Questionnaire

**Johne's disease Herd Status and RISK**  
We will not ask you to disclose your Johne's disease Status (whether or not herd has Johne's disease) but we need some generic information about the Johne's disease control on your farm to help us understand how the disease works and how they can manage it on farm. A series of targets will help keep a sense of achievement as you progress with managing Johne's Disease on your farm.

International experience has shown that if a rigorous control programme is instituted and applied consistently Johne's Disease control on farms – but the improvements in your herd's general health will be worth the steps you take and will be excellent much more quickly.

- Events over 3 years ago affect Johne's outcomes today
- It is important that all staff understand how the disease works and how they can manage it on farm
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International experience has shown that if a rigorous control programme is instituted and applied consistently Johne's Disease control on farms – but the improvements in your herd's general health will be worth the steps you take and will be excellent much more quickly.

In Denmark the within herd Johne's test prevalence for herds adopting the national control program has reduced from 10% to 2% over 6 years.

Can you spot the cow with Johne's?

### Know your Johne's status and how to control it

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

AHDB Dairy NFU RABDF FAW

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

**Johne's Disease**

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**So, what can I do about prevention and control of Johne's disease on my farm?**

Whether your farm type, there is a strategy to suit you. Work in partnership with your vet to implement the correct measures for your herd, from the six strategies identified by the National Action Johne's Group.

**Predict and prevent infection for the biggest impact on farm**

1. Biosecurity, protect and monitor
2. Improved farm management
3. Improved farm management, risk assessment and strategic testing
4. Improved farm management, test and cull
5. Breeds to terminal sire
6. Firebreak vaccination

For herds with a higher prevalence, work with your vet to identify infected cows with your management through strategic testing, implement management changes to break the cycle of transmission for these cows. As always, employ biosecurity and biocontainment measures with your vet.

4. Improved farm management, test and cull

Suitable for low prevalence herds wanting to quickly remove selected animals from the herd BEFORE they get chance to spread Johne's Disease. Work with your vet to adopt a culling policy on top of steps 1-3.

5. Breeds to terminal sire

This strategy may be suitable for herds with a high risk and high prevalence with no wish to breed their own replacements or the ability/resources to manage the risks through improved farm management. This is not a way to remove Johne's Disease and it affects from a farm. For replacement animals are bred, all cows are served to a terminal beef sire and all offspring are fattened for slaughter. Replacements are obtained from herds with lower levels of Johne's Disease. It must also be remembered that on a farm with very high levels of Johne's Disease transmission between adult animals is possible. It may still be prudent to undertake testing to help identify cows for removal. All calves produced in this system MUST be slaughtered for beef and NOT enter the suckler herd as breeding animals.

6. Firebreak vaccination

Vaccination may be a short term option for high risk, high prevalence herds as a firebreak to 'buy some time' until another strategy can be adopted. However, once a herd is vaccinated it becomes very difficult to determine whether an animal is infected as the farm cannot differentiate between antibodies from vaccination and infection which

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## Johne's Disease

**Remember**

Be realistic about the timeframe and what you can achieve: even when positive steps are fully implemented it can take 4-5 years to see significant progress to Johne's Disease control on farms – but the improvements in your herd's general health will be worth the steps you take and will be excellent much more quickly.

- Events over 3 years ago affect Johne's outcomes today
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## Johne's Disease

**Work with your vet to assess infection risk and know your herd Johne's Disease status**

Johne's Disease is complex and expert veterinary advice is vital to make sure you take the most cost effective steps towards managing the infection on your herd. Work with your vet to carry out a risk assessment as part of your herd health plan. It is important to note that while 1/3 of dairy herds do not have Johne's Disease present on their farms they still need a robust plan in place to keep it out.

Testing will help determine your herd's Johne's Disease status, the more samples you test, the more accurate will be the indication of your herd's Johne's Disease status. A popular method of initial Johne's Disease screening is the targeted cow screen using blood or milk from cows with histories of poor milk, weight loss, or high somatic cell counts. Unlike other diseases, bulk milk testing is not sensitive enough to detect infection at the early stage of infection. If your risks of Johne's Disease are high it is important that you reduce them by adopting an effective control programme and monitor carefully for infection within your herd.

**Repeated whole herd screens**

**Whole herd individual sample screens**

**Targeted cow screen**

**Bulk milk ELISA**

**The more frequent the testing, the better the understanding of Johne's Disease**

**Understanding the spread of Johne's between animals**

Infected Cow: Faeces, Colostrum, Milk

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

# Phase 1: Communications:



## Welcome to the National Action Group on Johne's

Johne's Disease is a chronic, debilitating and irreversible infection of cattle which is common in many herds. While as few as 1-5% of cows in any year will show clinical signs of scour or wasting, more of the herd will be affected and suffer reduced output. Animals with Johne's Disease are likely to be culled earlier, and are also likely to be affected by other conditions, including chronic mastitis, lameness and high somatic cell counts.

The National Johne's Management Plan has been developed to help provide strategies to manage the control of Johne's Disease on your farm.

This website is designed to be an information portal on Johne's, providing relevant technical documents and links that will aid Johne's engagement and control. Please note that the Group is not in a position to advise farmers on their specific Johne's control plans. These should be discussed with the farm vet.

## Website:

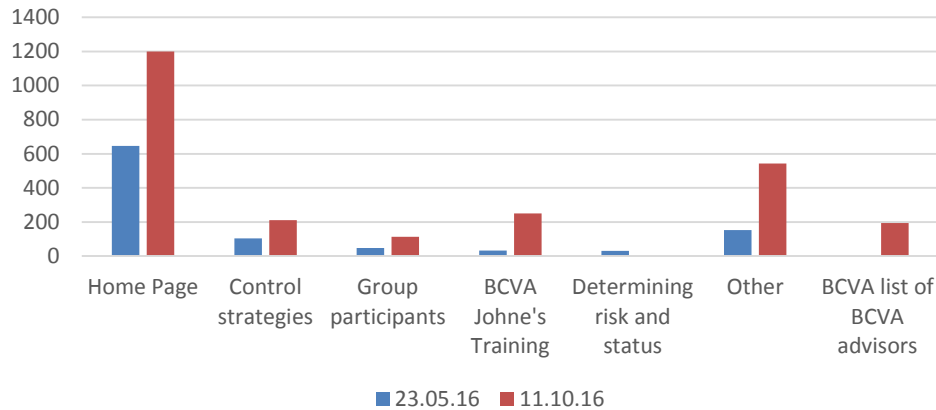
- Control strategies
- Overview of the disease
- Resources
  
- 2387 unique users in 2016

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

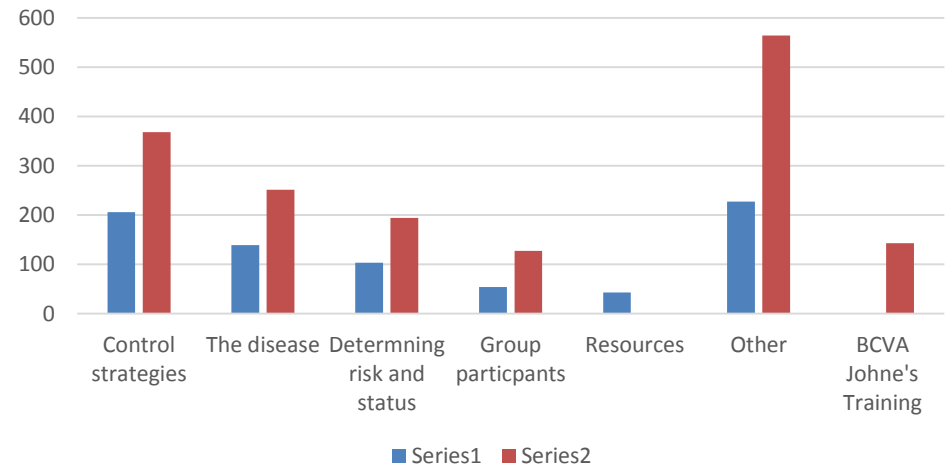
# Phase 1: Communications:



Starting Pages



1st interaction





# Phase 1: Communications:



## Press releases and social media:

- April 2015: Action Johnes's delivery team in place
- November 2015: 75% of milk committed to NJMP
- April 2016: BCVA vet training available (vet press only)
- July 2016: Open Day (Dumfries) and scheme update
- August 2016: call for consultation comments
- Sept 2016: met press to plan coverage for Phase 1 results

## Coverage achieved:

Farmers Guardian, FG Insight, Vet Record, FWi, British Dairying, Vet Times, DairySite, Welsh Farmer, NFU Online, AHDB news pages, CIS magazine, UK Jersey Society magazine, Livestock Matters, SAC Vet Service newsletter, Farming Futures

A collage of social media posts and news articles. At the top is a tweet from FarmingUK about the 'Johne's disease' initiative. Below it is a retweet from Farmers Weekly. To the right is a news article snippet with a photo of cows and the text 'Phase II initiative'. At the bottom is a photo of a man speaking at a podium with a 'RABD Working for British' sign. To the right of the photo is a news article snippet with the headline 'The Action Group on Johnes has launched an industry consultation on Phase II of the Action Johnes Initiative' and a 'HAVE YOUR SAY' button.

# Phase 1: Communications:



## Objective: NJMP technical manual

Will come from the Technical Group in Phase 2

# Phase 1: Learning



- By working together we achieve so much more
  - Consistent messages
  - BCVA veterinary training
  - Stakeholder engagement
  - Milk purchaser engagement and farmer interaction
- Look forward to Phase 2 to introduce measuring, monitoring and progress

# Phase 1: Learning



- It's all about impact at farm level
- What do our farmers and vets do to manage Johnes – how can we share that success?
- With thanks to Drove Vets and Hook Farm Partnership

<https://youtu.be/1V1YTz2xAMc>

Thank you