

Barriers to controlling Johnne's

Dick Sibley

Barriers

- Time
 - In changing management
 - In the changed management
- Cost
 - Cost of testing
 - Time costs
 - Housing for segregation – c.5-6% in AYR herds
 - Milk powder
- Testing uncertainty
 - Reasonably good on detecting infectious/shedding cows v. infected
 - Usually go positive 6mo. before become infectious

Barriers

- Example – 250 cows AYR 10% positives
 - 25 cows – need to segregate 5 cows on average
- Labour
 - Non-believers – relief milkers, vets
 - Vets need to improve communication
 - Farmers who think that testing alone the solution
 - Achievers (case studies) Aspirants (target audience) Victims (don't touch)

Barriers

- Biosecurity

- Farmers love buying cows – don't lift the bonnet
 - Health information in auction markets
 - Some buyers appreciate recognition for health status
 - Expansion
 - TB tests – can't carry surplus heifers
- Not simple to interpret individual cows and herd results
- Private sales – more are asking for test results
- Education
- Attitude
- Economics – losses in fertility, lameness, production

Management practices

- Red cows
- Segregation
- Colostrum
 - Individual cows
 - Time, numbers
 - Practicality
 - Mixed messages at meetings on colostrum
- Milk risks
 - Pasteurisation – time waiting for 60°C for 60 minutes
 - Capital costs

- Pasteurisation
 - Over-reliance
 - Ignore Hygiene

Most calves infected by faeces in very early life

- Clean cows – outside at grass, sand cubicles for dry cows
- Snatch calving
 - Direct into wheelbarrow
 - Within 2 hrs? Healthy cross bred calves
 - Within 6 hrs?
- Time
- Labour required
- Rubber matting – calf cannot get up, hygiene
- Infection from contaminated teats and under belly
- Not allowed by certain farm standards
- Consumer perception

- Separation from adult cows
 - Potential for dust infection in heavily infected herds
- In utero infection
 - Disease reproduction ratio not sufficient to maintain disease
 - 1:40 replacement heifers

- Tuberculosis

- Lose reactors – need to buy cows
- Interference with Johnes testing

- Education

- Vets

- Other farmers – those who have been through it