

Tesco Sustainable Dairy Group Johne's Disease Policy

Prof Robert Smith
Tesco Dairy Centre of Excellence,
University of Liverpool



Why have a Johne's disease reduction programme?

- Animal health
- Food safety risk?
- New draft Food Standards Agency risk assessment
- Overall risk could not be determined due to lack of key information
- FSA document assumes 40% - 50% herd prevalence
- Jury still out - TSDG working to reduce prevalence since 2011

Livestock code of Practice 2011 Johne's Disease policy

- Johne's disease reduction programme, as prescribed by their milk recording organisation or similar scheme, in conjunction with the veterinary surgeon.
- The number of 'red' cows on farm must be submitted annually to Tesco.
- Where an animal has been TB tested in the previous 60 days, it can be excluded from the testing, due to poor accuracy of results.
- Most members used quarterly milk antibody testing via MRO

2015 update

- Measure individual cow milk antibody every quarter via MRO
- Management plan in conjunction with farm vet, reviewed with vet at least annually in light of number and type of “red” cows
- Red cows, Calving, colostrum management, housing, bio-security and biocontainment
- Management plan inspected at annual audit visit
- Number of animals with 2 consecutive high tests part of the Health Index

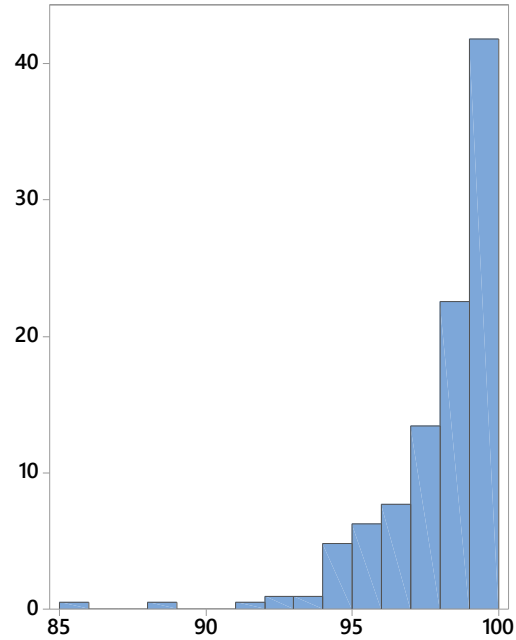
Herd Prevalence of Johne's “negative” animal

- Obtained information fresh from milk recording organisations to check data held
- Most herds have very low numbers of risk cows

	2012	2014	2016
% negative cows	95.4%	97.0%	98.5%
% farms 99% negative cows	26%	58%	84%

Still improving

vs CIS not J5 (Red) same farms



Next steps

- Presenting the group position to farmers at regional meetings
- Assess problems encountered by herds that have higher prevalence of positive animals
- 150 newly recruited herds
 - Initially seem to be in a similar position
 - More certain as further testing takes place
- Encourage trading only with other low prevalence herds
- Encourage accreditation?

Protecting the herd Johne's disease status

Interpret
test results
with Vet

Reduce risk
of disease
entry

Reduce risk
of spread/
new
infection