

Iowa Voluntary Bovine Johne's Disease Control Program

2008 Producer Guidelines for JPL Status Herds*

These are guidelines* for producers interested in participating in the Iowa Voluntary Johne's Disease Control Program. More specific and additional Voluntary Bovine Johne's Disease Control Program (VBJDCP) details can be read in the Uniform Program Standards for the VBJDCP (APHIS 91-45-016).

1. To achieve and maintain a VBJDCP program herd, an annual risk assessment and approved herd management plan is required. This can be done by your area State District / Johne's Certified Veterinarian.
2. All cattle must be individually identified using an identified method approved by IDALS. For herds enrolled as a Johne's Program Level A, 1, 2, 3, or 4 this needs to be an official ear tag or other official identification determined by the State Johne's Advisory Group.

Johne's Program Level (**JPL**) herds are summarized as:

- 1) Test-negative status herds (at least 90% of the animals have been in the herd for at least 1 year):
 - Level 1 (**JPL 1**) = The owner/manager has an approved herd management plan and the herd is test negative by a screening test or official JD test on at least 30 randomly sampled eligible animals or on pooled fecal samples of 50 randomly selected eligible animals, or in Dairy herds only – negative Environmental sampling.
 - Level 2 (**JPL 2**) = The owner/manager maintains or updates the approved herd management plan and the herd has met the requirements for Level 1 and has negative results using a testing strategy equivalent to a 95% confidence of having a noninfected herd (see Appendix 2 in the Uniform Program Standards for the VBJDCP APHIS 91-45-016 dated 6/1/06) on at least a statistical subset of all eligible animals.
 - Level 3 (**JPL3**) = The owner/manager maintains or updates the approved herd management plan and the herd has met the requirements for Level 2 and has negative results using a testing strategy equivalent to a 95% confidence of having a noninfected herd (see Appendix 2) on at least a statistical subset of all eligible animals.
 - Level 4 (**JPL 4**) = The owner/manager maintains or updates the approved herd management plan and the herd has met the Level 3 testing requirements and have negative results on a testing strategy equivalent to a 99 % confidence (see Appendix 2) on at least a statistical subset of all eligible animals.

2) Test-positive status:

- The owner/manager has an approved herd management plan and the herd has test positive results by screening or official JD tests on individual(s) in the herd, except the following (Level A):

Level A = The owner/manager has an approved herd management plan and the herd is test negative by a screening test or official JD test on at least 30 randomly sampled eligible animals but does not maintain a closed herd by approved herd additions protocol as described in the VBJDCP.

- Monitored/management herd = the owner/manager has completed a risk assessment and an approved herd management plan but the herd has animals that have tested positive (herd is infected).

A herd will remain at any level for up to 14 months from their herd program anniversary date. To continue their program participation, the herd owner must reapply with a copy of negative test results, an updated herd management plan, and an agreement to follow the VBJDCP requirements. If a herd owner wishes to renew or advance but is waiting for confirmation of screening test results and therefore cannot meet the 14-month deadline, he or she can send the State Designated Johne's disease Coordinator (DJC) a letter stating their intent to renew or advance.

All levels can be maintained by achieving negative screening test results on 30 randomly selected animals 36 months or older every 10 to 14 months. The year this level was achieved should continue to be noted since continued monitoring increases confidence the herd is not infected.

3. Premise ID number is required for involvement in Iowa Johne's Disease Control Program
4. Herds with previously documented testing equivalent to standards of the Test- negative component:

The DJC, after evaluation of the previous testing results and evaluation that herd additions are from low-risk sources, may assign a herd a test negative status of up to Level 3 after the cattle have the required Level 3 testing and the owner signs a declaration that:

“No Johne's disease was known or suspected in the herd during the last 5 years.”

5. Herds with a Test-negative status should get an official JD test on all clinical suspects even if they are removed from the herd.
6. Herd Additions:

For the Test-negative component of the VBJDCP, the owner/manager must comply with herd addition/replacement rules summarized below:

- a. Purchased heifers and bulls less than 2 years of age may be added to the herd, provided that:

1) For Johne's Program Levels 1 and 2:

The animal was purchased from a herd with a test-negative level that is equal to or higher than the herd it is entering,

OR

The purchased animal is tested with an official JD test in the next herd test after it reaches 24 months of age. The herd will not lose its status if additions that are test-positive are removed from the herd within 30 days after the positive test along with any progeny and have a follow up epidemiological study by the DJC. The addition animal reaches herd status and becomes part of the herd after a negative test result on the herd test.

2) For Johne's Program levels 3 and 4:

The animal was purchased from a herd with a test-negative level that is equal to or higher than the herd it is entering,

OR

The purchased animal is from a herd one level below the status of the purchasing herd and is tested with an official test at 12, 18 and 24 months of age and is tested in the next herd test after it reaches two years of age. The herd will not lose its status if additions that are test-positive are removed from the herd within 30 days after the positive test along with any progeny and have a follow up epidemiological study by the DJC. The addition animal reaches herd status and becomes part of the herd after a negative test result on the herd test.

OR

If the addition animal is more than one level below the herd's current status, the herd will be demoted one status level. The addition animal must be tested with an official test at 12, 18, and 24 months of age and tested in the next herd test after it reaches two years of age. The herd will not lose its status if additions that are test-positive are removed from the herd within 30 days after the positive test along with any progeny and have a follow up epidemiological study by the DJC. The addition animal reaches herd status and becomes part of the herd after a negative test result on the herd test. Subsequently, the herd may advance in the status program by following the testing protocol for that level.

b. Purchased or replacement animals two years of age or older may be added to the herd provided that:

1) For Johne's Program Level 1 or 2 herds:

The animal was purchased from a herd with a test-negative level equal to or higher than the herd it is entering;

OR

The animal has a screening test within 30 days before entering the test-negative level herd with negative results, and fecal samples from each addition animal have been collected and submitted between 30 days before and 30 days after arrival for an official JD test and the herd addition is tested on the next herd test. The herd will not lose its status if additions that are test-positive are removed from the herd within 30 days after arrival, along with any progeny, and have a follow up epidemiological study by the DJC. The addition's status will remain at its entry level until it has tested negative at the next herd test.

2) For Johne's Program Level 3 and 4 herds:

The animal was purchased from a herd with a test-negative level that is equal to or higher than the herd it is entering;

OR

The herd of origin has a test-negative level of one level below and the purchased addition has a screening test with negative results within 30 days before entry into the program herd, and fecal samples from each animal added have been collected and submitted between 30 days before and 30 days after arrival for an official JD test. The herd will not lose its status if additions that are test-positive are removed from the herd within 30 days after arrival, along with any progeny, and have a follow up epidemiological study by the DJC. The addition's status will remain at its entry level until it has tested negative at the next herd test;

OR

If the addition is more than one level below the herd's current status, the herd will be demoted one level, and each addition must have an official test on fecal samples between 30 days before and 30 days after arrival and the herd addition is tested on the next herd test. The addition's status will remain at its entry level until it has tested negative at the next herd test. The herd will not lose its status if additions that are test-positive are removed from the herd within 30 days after arrival along with any progeny, and have a follow up epidemiological study by the DJC. Subsequently, the herd may advance in the status program by following the testing protocol for that level.

c. Heifers raised off the premises must be raised with the proper biosecurity measures in place and with animals at an equal or greater test-negative level.

d. Test-negative program herds may use semen and embryos from other cattle herds, provided that the semen used is processed according to

Certified Semen Services' standards and the embryos are processed according to International Embryo Transfer Society protocols. Embryo transfer recipient cows must meet herd addition requirements.

7. Testing:

a. Herds must be retested within 10 -14 months from the anniversary date.

Available program testing strategies include:

- Random 30 samples – thirty blood or fecal culture samples from 30 randomly selected test eligible animals (3 years of age or older).
- Fecal pooling of 50 animals (3 years of age or older).
- Environmental sampling –Dairy only and performed by a certified Johne's veterinarian.
- Whole Herd Sample – all test eligible animals are tested
- Statistical Subset – (see Appendix 1 in Uniform Program Standards for the Voluntary Bovine Johne's Disease Control Program APHIS 91-45-016)

Available testing methods:

- Screening test – done by an approved laboratory
 1. Serology/ ELISA (blood)
 2. Fecal pooling
 3. Environmental sampling
- Official JD test – organism detection test (fecal culture, PCR / DNA probes) done by an approved laboratory

b. The cost of sample collection and submission to a laboratory will be borne by the owner (***unless Program incentives are available***).

c. Test samples must be submitted to a laboratory approved by the National Veterinary Services Laboratories and the laboratory must participate with and pass the NVSL check test program.

d. An accredited veterinarian must perform the test sample collection and verify the samples collected to the animal identification.

e. The herd test sampling procedures must be approved by the DJC for a VBJDGP herd. Vaccinated herds will be eligible for the test-negative program levels after vaccination has been discontinued.

[Vaccinated herds must use an Official Johne's disease test for all status levels. All testing must be done by an official JD test until enough non-vaccinated natural additions qualify for serology testing. The number of

non-vaccinated animals will be the sample size required for that size herd for a statistical subset for serology]

f. If an animal is determined to be a suspect or positive for Johne's disease on a screening test, a fecal sample must be submitted for an Official Johne's disease test from that animal within 45 days. Failure to retest the animal within 45 days, or the detection of *M. avium* subspecies *paratuberculosis* (MAP) in samples will result in the loss of any test negative status.

g. In the event an Official Johne's disease test is found to be positive, the herd status will removed for test negative herds. The herd owner/manager may appeal the positive results to an official Johne's disease test with a written statement to the DJC within 30 days of the positive result requesting an appeal, and then at his or her expense arrange for an accredited veterinarian to;

- 1) Conduct a necropsy of the animal with culture and histopathology of the ileum and of the mesenteric and ileocecal lymph nodes; OR
- 2) Conduct a full thickness biopsy of the ileum and biopsy of the mesenteric or ileocecal lymph nodes with histopathology and culture of tissues and a fecal culture sample taken at the time of biopsy; OR
- 3) Submit six separate fecal cultures from the animals on samples collected between 30 and 45 days apart with all six cultures being negative.

*Specific information regarding guidelines or program standards is obtainable in the VBJDCP Uniform Program Standards (APHIS 91-45-016)

Any questions or additional information contact:

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