

BLOOD TEST AT DRYING OFF FOR BETTER CONTROL OF JOHNE'S DISEASE

Studies have shown that blood testing is more sensitive than milk testing for detecting Johne's infected cows.

One study involved a 350 cow herd where milk samples were tested quarterly (through a milk testing laboratory), blood samples were tested using a different ELISA test (the same one as used at Axiom) and occasional faecal testing was done using culture or PCR.

Over a 27-month period of milk testing:

- Twenty five cows were detected as antibody positive on blood testing before being identified as positive on milk, with an average time difference of at least 14 months
- In five cases it was over two years before a positive milk result was obtained, with one cow being detected as positive on blood almost three years before she finally tested positive on milk.
- Twenty four cows which had tested as negative on milks during that lactation were found to be antibody positive on bloods at drying off. These cows had at least one more positive test on blood, sometimes also on milk and some were also faecal tested for confirmation.
- Another three cows that had been negative on milks during that lactation were classed as inconclusive on bloods at drying off and four more milk negatives were classed as suspicious on blood. These seven animals later became positive on blood testing (four of them had been faecal tested at drying off and three of them were positive in either PCR or culture).
- A further 12 cows that were positive on blood testing (the majority on multiple occasions) before the milk testing started were found to be negative on milk at their first available milk test and only two tested as positive in a milk sample in their subsequent lactation (the majority were culled before the end of that lactation).

Reduce the chances of a high-risk infected cow entering a "green" calving pen and her colostrum & milk being fed to calves by blood testing at drying off with our more sensitive test.

A further blood test could be done pre-breeding e.g. about 30 days in milk, if desired.

Axiom Veterinary Laboratories
The Manor House, Brunel Road,
Newton Abbot, Devon, TQ12 4PB
T: 01626 357776
E: cattlehealthscheme@axiomvetlab.co.uk
www.cattlehealthscheme.com

