

JOHNE'S DISEASE SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM

LIVESTOCK

What is Johne's?

Johne's disease is a chronic debilitating disease that affects the intestines of cattle, sheep and goats. Although many animals in a herd may be infected, usually less than five per cent of infected animals develop clinical signs of disease. Animals that look normal can still shed the bacteria and infect other animals in the herd. Poor nutrition, parasitism, and stress can cause more of the infected animals to become visibly affected. Once clinical disease develops, affected animals eventually die. There is no treatment for Johne's disease.

The long incubation period of this disease makes it difficult to detect. Many animals within a herd may be infected before any clinical signs are ever seen. The primary way any herd becomes infected with Johne's is through the purchase of infected animals. To help detect and control Johne's disease in the province, the Ministry of Agriculture has developed a surveillance and control program for purebred cattle producers in Saskatchewan.

The Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association (SSGA) is the administrator for this program, which is funded under Growing Forward 2.



Eligibility

Any purebred cattle producer located in Saskatchewan who is interested in participating is eligible to apply.

Program

A blood test is conducted on every mature cow and bull in the herd. If Johne's is found in a herd, veterinary consultation will be provided to complete a Johne's disease risk assessment and develop a customized management plan. The identity of program participants and individual test results will be kept confidential.

Costs Covered

Veterinary fees for blood collection, laboratory testing, sample shipping and veterinary fees for Johne's Risk Assessment and Management Planning are covered.

How can I access this program?

All purebred Saskatchewan cattle producers are eligible for this program. Enrollment is limited to a maximum of 50 herds per year. Space is available on a first-come, first serve basis.

For more information, contact:

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