

# Johnes

## Background:

Caused by *Mycobacterium avium paratuberculosis* (MAP). Thickening of the intestine as a result of the cow's immune response to the bacteria makes the gut less efficient at absorbing fluid and nutrients. This causes a chronic diarrhoea.

It can affect all ruminants including sheep, along with wild animals such as deer and rabbits.

The long incubation period of the disease means that although young calves are the most susceptible, signs of disease often do not occur until the cow is several years of age.

Spread in colostrum, faeces especially contaminated teats, feed or water troughs and there is evidence of intrauterine infection of the developing calf.

## Clinical Signs:

- Weight loss
- Scouring
- Reduced milk yield
- Immunosuppression

## Diagnosis:

Blood, milk or faeces sample. The test has a low sensitivity so a negative result may require re-testing.

## Treatment/Prevention:

- There is no treatment once the animal becomes clinical. Control of the disease relates to reducing exposure to calves.
- Calve Johne's positive cows separately from the main herd and consider snatch calving.
- Feed colostrum only from the dam or pasteurise if pooling.
- Herd testing regularly is advisable.
- Cull clinically diseased animals promptly.
- Reduce faecal contamination particularly at feed/water areas.
- Do not breed replacements from Johne's positive cows.
- Identification of cows with a positive result is good management practice to make them easily identifiable e.g. Red ear tags or leg bands.

Please contact the practice for advice or if you have any concerns on 01373 451115.