

Showing No Signs, Dairy Herd Can Have Johne's Disease

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 animals are certified Johne's-free. If using in-house stock, the calves must be removed from the maternity area as soon as possible — the bacterium can be present in the milk of the infected dam. (Also, the bacterium can spread throughout the dam and embed itself in other tissues, and the bacterium can be transferred to the unborn calf.)

Producers need to focus a greater amount of attention to the calves in this critical, early postpartum period, said Sweeney, and put them on colostrum or milk replacer that is bacterium-free.

Producers need to keep their equipment clean, in addition to the facilities. The bacterium can spread easily, especially when using a front loader to supply feed and haul manure without cleaning the equipment.

Bulls also can spread the disease. The bacterium can survive in semen.

They key to fighting the disease, according to Sweeney, is to realize that the more concentrated the

organisms, the greater the chance of spread. Sanitation and proper management of calves will ensure that the concentration is kept to controllable levels.

A producer panel drew on some of the experiences that Lancaster County dairy farmers had with treating Johne's disease on their herds. Both herds have managed to control the disease through careful management of stock and using biosecurity — sanitation and clean equipment. Also, producers must protect access to water sources and feed to make sure those do not become contaminated with the bacterium.

Millie Widmann, a dairy farmer in Oxford, and Larry Harnish, who farms in Washington Boro, dealt with Johne's disease a few years ago. Widmann said that an animal they purchased in 1981 spread the infection throughout her farm. In 1983, she began working with New Bolton Center. Of 42 samples taken late that year, 16 came back positive. Working closely with New Bolton, they were able to rid



A producer panel examined some of the ways different dairies treated their herds for Johne's disease on Tuesday at the Lancaster County Dairy Days, part 2. From left, Dr. Larry Hutchinson, extension veterinarian, Penn State, moderator; Dr. Ray Sweeney, New Bolton School of Veterinary Medicine; Millie Widmann, dairy farmer, Oxford; Larry Harnish, dairy farmer, Washington Boro; and Dr. Robert Whitlock, New Bolton Center.

the bacteria from the herd through careful cleanup of hutches, equipment, and separating the mature animals from the calves. It took them six years to have their first negative test in 1989. They continue to test twice a year.

Harnish operates a small, closed herd. Harnish said that he didn't see visual signs of the disease, and only through testing did they find evidence of Johne's in their herd. He wanted to stop Johne's before it became a problem because he sells replacement stock.

Herds can become certified free

of the disease through the Pennsylvania Certified Paratuberculosis Test-Negative Herd Program. Dr. Robert Whitlock, DVM, New Bolton School of Veterinary Medicine, spoke about the state program.

On evidence garnered from New Bolton Center, lost lactation dollars alone per cow could be nearly \$400 on an annual basis because of Johne's. Also, increased vet and wasted feed costs point to the need for producers to rid Johne's from the herd.

The certified program in Pen-

sylvania began in 1992. The program does not guarantee the herd will be free of Johne's, but that it will test negative, according to Whitlock.

For producers to become involved, they should first speak to their veterinarian. A cooperative agreement must be signed, and other details worked out. The important thing to remember, according to Whitlock, is that it takes time to rid the herd, and producers must be cooperative and patient in order to completely treat the disease.

Production Increases

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Milk production in Pennsylvania during January 1994 totaled 858 million pounds, 1 percent above last year's production, according to the Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service (PASS).

The number of milk cows in the state during the month averaged 650,000 head, down 4,000 head from December and 6,000 fewer than January 1993.

Production per cow averaged 1,320 pounds in January, 25 pounds more than December and up 30 pounds from January a year ago.

Pennsylvania's milk production for 1993 totaled 10.2 billion pounds, 2 percent less than the 10.4 billion produced in 1992.

Pennsylvania ranked fourth in milk production for 1993. The average number of milk cows during the year was 650,000, which is 15,000 fewer than the previous year.

Production per cow during 1993 totaled 15,677 pounds, compared to 15,823 pounds during 1992. There were 13,000 milk cow farms in 1993, 1,000 less than during 1992.

Milk production in the 21 states surveyed during January 1994 totaled 10.6 billion pounds, 122 million pounds less than the same states in January 1993. December revised production at 10.5 billion pounds was 2 percent below December 1992. The number of milk cows averaged 8.04 million head, down 2 percent from a year earlier, while production per cow averaged 1,319 pounds, 14 pounds above January of last year.

Total U.S. milk production in 1993 was 151.0 billion pounds, down less than 1 percent from 1992. There were 9.71 million milk cows during the year, compared to 9.84 in 1992. Average

milk production per cow for 1993 was 15,544 pounds, 135 pounds more than the previous year.

Dairy Refund Deadline March 15

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — The Lancaster County ASCS Office is currently issuing refunds for amounts deducted from 1993 commercial milk marketings under the Dairy Refund Payment Program (DRPP).

The program is authorized under the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990 as amended by the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993.

Paul Kline — chairperson of the Lancaster County ASC Committee, said any producer who provides evidence that they did not market more milk in 1993 than in 1992, or if they went out of the dairy business during the refund period, did not market more milk for the same days and months of 1992, will be eligible to receive the entire amount deducted from their milk proceeds if he or she meets the eligibility requirements and claims the refund by March 15.

Under the DRPP, milk producers requesting a refund must establish their milk marketings for the refund year, 1993, and the immediate preceding calendar year, 1992, before the refund request is made. Refund request must be made by March 15.

The 1990 Act calls for an 11.25 cents per hundredweight reduction in the price received by producers for all milk produced and marketed for commercial use in calendar year 1993.

This amount was increased on May 1, 1993 by 5.1 cents per hundredweight, for a total of 16.35 cents per hundredweight, to compensate for refunds paid under the 1992 program. This rate remained in effect through October 1993.

The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 provided for a 10 percent decrease in the amount of the reduction in the price received by producers during November and December 1993, for a total of 14.71 cents per hundredweight.

Holstein Convention Set For March 11

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who is to start the annual business meeting.

During the meeting breed improvement awards, junior awards and progressive breeder awards are to be presented.

Lunch is by reservation only and cost \$12 per person, with no charge for children aged 3-years or less, and half price for children aged 4 years to 10 years.

The evening banquet fee is \$20 per person and includes a social hour, a buffet dinner, the presentation of junior awards by Anne Davis, the introduction of the judging team by Dr. Lee Majeskie, a fun auction and entertainment.

The fun auction is help raise funds for the state Holstein Association.

There are two alternative schedules for the day's events — one for women, and the other for the youth.

All programs include guest speakers.

For the regular meeting, the guest speaker is to be Dr. Mark Varner, an associate professor with the University of Maryland and a dairy specialist in its Cooperative Extension Service.

Varner is to give a talk on Dairy-L, which is a computer communications network available through county offices devoted specifically to issues in the dairy industry, and producer questions.

He is also to speak about the Dutch dairy industry and some of the trends in automation.

The Ladies' Program is to be held at the Ramada Inn with the topic of guest speaker Jackie Leimbach, a senior sales director for Mary Kay Cosmetics, to be "Looking Good, Feeling Good."

Leimbach is to demonstrate skin care and glamour techniques.

In the afternoon the topic will be "Color Logic." Door prizes are to be offered also.

Convention Schedule of Events

March 11-12

Ramada Inn, Hagerstown, Md.

Friday, March 11

DAY MEETING

9:30 Registration
 10:30 a.m. Welcome to Washington County Annual Business Meeting Breed Improvement Awards Junior Awards PBR Awards
 12:30 p.m. Lunch (reservation only)
 1:45 p.m. Guest Speaker, Dr. Mark Varner Topic: Trends in Dutch Dairy Industry
 3 p.m. Visit exhibits, farm visits

LADIES PROGRAM

10:30 a.m. Guest Speaker, Jackie Leimbach Topic: Looking Good, Feeling Good
 12:30 p.m. Lunch (reservation only)
 1:45 p.m. Topic: Color Logic

YOUTH PROGRAM

10 a.m. Tour of Mid-East Milk Lab
 11:30 a.m. Production Awards
 12:30 p.m. Pizza Party
 1:30 p.m. Business Meeting
 2 p.m. Guest Speaker, Dr. Tom Mercuro Topic: Advancements in Bovine Reproduction

BANQUET

6 a.m. Social Hour, Milk Punch, Dairy Bar
 7 p.m. Buffet Dinner
 8:15 p.m. Presentation of Jr. Awards
 8:45 p.m. Fun Auction
 9 p.m. Entertainment, Karaoke

Saturday, March 12

MARYLAND CONVENTION SALE

11 a.m. Convention Sale Western Md. Reserach Center Sharpsburg, Md.

The youth at the convention are to depart the Ramada Inn on Friday morning between 9:45 a.m. and 10 a.m. for a trip to the Mid-East Milk Testing Laboratory used for processing samples for the Dairy Herd Improvement Association.

After the tour, the youth are to return to the hotel for the junior production awards segment of the regular program, then for lunch,

the youth are to return to the lab for pizza.

The youth will have their business meeting after lunch, followed by guest speaker Tom Mercuro, from Mid-Marlyand Dairy Vets, who is to give a presentation on the advancements in bovine reproduction. He is also to discuss artificial insemination, embryo transfer, and demonstrate an ultrasound.

