



National Johne's Management Plan: Year 2 data shows dairy farmers in Great Britain still committed to Johne's disease control

The Action Group on Johne's has published encouraging annual data from the National Johne's Management Plan (NJMP) showing that to date, all milk purchaser members of the Action Group on Johne's have obtained declarations from most of their supplying dairy farmers, with the majority achieving over 80% compliance and almost half achieving 100% compliance.

It is currently estimated that over three quarters of Great British milk volume is covered by milk purchaser members of the scheme. The success of the scheme in winning industry engagement was a significant factor in the decision that participation, by both farmers and purchasers, will be a mandatory part of the Red Tractor scheme in 2020.

Red Tractor farmers have had to meet the requirements of the scheme at the time of their assessment from October last year. Milk purchasers will be required to join the scheme from April 2020.

Chair of the Action Group on Johne's, Lyndon Edwards said: "This is another great result for an industry led initiative. It means we have managed to maintain a degree of active engagement in Johne's control that keeps the country at the leading edge of Johne's disease control worldwide. Continued close collaboration between farmers and BCVA Johne's accredited vets, backed up by supply chain commitments demonstrates that delivery on endemic disease control can be achieved".

The NJMP is a coordinated initiative for the benefit of the industry and cow welfare. Milk purchaser members of the NJMP require their associated farmers to obtain a signed declaration to confirm that in conjunction with a BCVA Johne's Accredited Veterinary Advisor (BAJVA) they have done:

- an annual structured risk assessment to understand the Johne's disease risks on the farm, and
- testing within the last 12 months to understand the herd's Johne's disease status, then
- a written Johne's disease management plan has been produced, reviewed and agreed with the farm that one of the six NJMP control strategies is understood and will be implemented.

The recent data shows that the following control strategies were selected throughout 2019:

Strategy	Percent
1. Biosecurity protect and monitor	9.32%
2. Improved farm management	4.04%
3. Improved farm management and strategic testing	49.97%
4. Improved farm management test and cull	28.99%
5. Breed to terminal sire	7.43%
6. Firebreak vaccination	0.25%

As the scheme moves forward into its third year of gathering signed declarations, to support its aim of managing and then reducing the incidence of Johne's disease in Great Britain, the Action Group on Johne's will continue to support and collaborate with its milk purchaser members, BAJVAs and



dairy farmers. The recent changes to the Red Tractor dairy standards require that Johne's disease must be managed through the implementation of the NJMP. This includes a requirement that all members have a signed Johne's NJMP declaration. In addition, the UK Government are supportive of working with the dairy industry to develop an ambitious plan to tackle endemic disease in the form of an Animal Health 'Pathway' that will support high animal welfare, increase productivity and profitability, and lead to a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

The NJMP should continue to be reviewed by every farmer and their BAJVA on an annual basis, and the signed declaration should be returned to the milk purchaser by 31st October (or the date specified by individual milk purchaser companies) each year. 2019 compliance rates for each milk purchaser member have been published on the Action Group on Johne's website, and a copy of the 2020 declaration will be made available to milk purchaser members and BAJVA's shortly.