



Why Care About Johne's Disease?

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The Benefits of Controlling Johne's Disease

Johne's disease is a chronic, infectious disease of the digestive tract that affects dairy cattle and sheep. It is caused by the bacterium *Mycobacterium avium* subspecies *paratuberculosis*. The disease is characterized by a long, insidious course of illness, with a latent period that can last for years before clinical signs appear. The primary clinical signs are chronic diarrhea and weight loss, which eventually lead to a culling decision. The disease is highly contagious and can be spread through direct contact with infected animals, as well as through contaminated feed, water, and manure. The economic impact of Johne's disease is significant, as it leads to reduced milk production, increased culling costs, and lower overall herd health. Controlling the disease through various management practices, such as strict biosecurity, testing, and culling, is essential for maintaining a profitable and healthy dairy operation.

1

**MORE MILK IN THE TANK:
MORE MONEY IN YOUR POCKET**

Point of view
it's a good idea
to have a
certain level of
control over
the disease. ¹⁴ What
is the best way
to control the
disease? ¹²

U.S. dairy ¹³

2

**FEWER INVOLUNTARY CULLS:
HIGHER VALUE CULLS**

As the point
of view
of the
producer
changes
and the
value of
the cull
increases
the overall
value of
the herd
increases. ¹⁵ What
is the best
way to
control the
disease? ⁷ Cull

3

HEALTHIER COWS pr (eg20at pood satuJ T*(o)]8J T* [(the sub(ematur)8)6 (enue.)]Tjt)13.sple of thead dis4.8 (LK)-9 (s disea

4

**REDUCED CULLING COSTS:
LOWER OVERALL CULLING COSTS**