



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 12, 2008

Contact: Teres Lambert  
847-838-2966  
tlambert@animalagriculture.org

### **Johne's Disease Information Online, Just a Click Away**

BOWLING GREEN, KY— Thirty seconds is all the time veterinarians and beef and dairy producers need to locate information about Johne's disease online at [www.animalagriculture.org](http://www.animalagriculture.org). Once at this website, a click on the "National Johne's Education Initiative" logo on the right side of the webpage pops up a wide array of Johne's disease information.

Michele Vise-Brown, chief executive officer for the National Institute for Animal Agriculture, explains that Johne's disease is a slow, progressive intestinal tract disease that affects ruminants and costs the beef and dairy industries millions of dollars each year. Research shows that one out of 10 animals moving through livestock auction markets is infected with Johne's.

"This is a livestock disease that should not be ignored because it is such a quiet but costly disease to producers," Vise-Brown states. "As such, the USDA has charged the National Institute for Animal Agriculture to help educate and inform producers and veterinarians about Johne's disease—its prevention, control and testing."

A couple of new items of key interest on the National Johne's Education Initiative web pages are Johne's case studies, a summary of Part 3 of the Dairy 2007 study conducted by the National Animal Health Monitoring Systems, a link to the online producer education course and a link to the online veterinary certificate program information. Among the other many items available at the web site is a list of approved Johne's laboratories and copies of the handbook for veterinarians and dairy producers and the handbook for veterinarians and beef producers.

*The National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) is dedicated to programs that work towards the eradication of diseases that pose risk to the health of animals, wildlife and humans; promote a safe and wholesome food supply for our nation and abroad; and promote best practices in environmental stewardship, animal health and well-being. NIAA members include producers, veterinarians, animal scientists, researchers, state and federal officials, and agribusiness executives. More information is available at [www.animalagriculture.org](http://www.animalagriculture.org).*

# # #