

The Johne's Education Initiative

Part 2

Ken Olson

Johne's Education Coordinator



Objective

- To be an easily accessible source of reliable information about Johne's disease for producers and those who work with them
- To facilitate the exchange and expand the use of existing information
- Encourage and demonstrate producer interest in and use of Johne's control / management programs



Bottom line

- How can we best provide the information and tools producers need to effectively deal with Johne's Disease?
- What are producers doing now? How can we assist?



What are we doing?

- www.johnedisease.org
 - State contact information
 - Producer programs
 - National program
 - International programs
 - Information links



Producer publications

EXGENEL[®] RTU

brand of meloxicam hydrochloride

For intramuscular and subcutaneous use in cattle. This product may be used in lactating dairy cattle.

CAUTION: Federal (USA) law restricts this drug to use by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian.

INDICATIONS: EXGENEL[®] RTU (meloxicam) is indicated for treatment of the following bovine diseases:

Bovine respiratory disease (BRD), including fever, pneumonia, associated with *Mycoplasma*, *Moraxella*, *Mannheimia*, and *Haemophilus* spp.

Acute bovine bacterial mastitis (including that not associated with *Streptococcus* spp., *Staphylococcus* spp., and *Escherichia coli*) associated with bacterial organisms susceptible to meloxicam.

CONTRAINDICATIONS: As with all drugs, the use of EXGENEL[®] RTU (meloxicam) is contraindicated in animals previously found to be hypersensitive to the drug.

For intramuscular injection: The drug is administered by intramuscular injection in the muscle of the thigh of 1.5- to 2-year-old calves and 1.5- to 2-year-old heifers.

For subcutaneous injection: The drug is administered by subcutaneous injection in the neck or in the area of the shoulder.

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PRODUCTION

IGNORANCE IS NOT BLISS

Johne's producer education plan hopes to bridge knowledge gaps

Ten years ago, USDA's National Animal Health Monitoring Survey estimated that Johne's disease affected 500,000 of the nation's dairy cattle and 22% of its herds. Follow-up studies suggest the picture isn't any prettier. When USDA tested cattle in 62 herds in 2002 using the Johne's fecal culture test, 84% had at least one fecal positive animal.

That's why a new National Johne's Education Initiative is being started. The mission: To provide producers (dairy and beef), and those who work with them, reliable, useful and easy to access information about the disease.

- The initiative has three objectives:
- Reduce the possibility of introducing Johne's disease into uninfected herds.
 - Minimize the impact of Johne's disease in herds already infected.
 - Control existing cases.

"The initiative is the outgrowth of work by the Johne's Working Group, which is part of the Johne's Disease Committee of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA)," says Ken Olson, Johne's Education coordinator. "They and others in the industry saw an increasing need for producer education."

Some veterinarians have questioned whether such a push to control Johne's now is worth the effort. They cite problems with Johne's tests that don't appear to be accurate since they can't identify all infected cows

or it sometimes take months to deliver results on individual animals. Olson counters that current Johne's tests are at least as good as the bovine tuberculosis and brucellosis tests were when those disease eradication efforts were started decades ago.

"The Johne's tests will get better and faster," he says. "By improving educational efforts and doing herd tests now, we can focus on where the problem herds are and center our control efforts there."

The education initiative is a cooperative effort of the National Institute for Animal Agriculture, USDA's

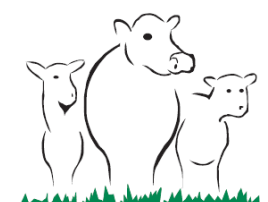
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Veterinary Service along with USAHA's Johne's Working Group. APHIS provided \$50,000 in funding to jump-start the program last year, and has committed at least that much for 2006, says Olson. Other groups will also participate in the initiative.

Along with providing the most recent Johne's information, the education effort hopes to share lessons learned from 67 cooperating dairy herds with 60,000 cattle in 16 states.

The Johne's education initiative's most visible effort is its website, www.johne'sdisease.org. Designed to be producer friendly, the Web site is a one-stop destination for reputable, factual information on the disease. It also provides quick, easy links to Johne's disease coordinators in each state. —Jim Dickrell



NATIONAL JOHNE'S EDUCATION INITIATIVE



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Pharmacia & Lipton Company
Division of Pfizer Inc.
NY, NY 10017

www.dairytoday.com

Outreach

- NDB/NMPF/UDIA Meeting
- NDHIA Meeting
- JDIP Meeting
- Canadian and EU program leaders



What is needed?

- Feed back
 - What are you (producers) doing?
 - What is needed from JEI and NJWG to assist producers?
 - What concerns do you have?
- Funding
 - Ideas
- Possible Advisory Committee



Contact

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