



Herd Health Programme



LABORATORY
TESTING

A clear picture of your herd's health

AsureQuality's Herd Health Programme is a convenient and cost-effective on-farm service providing you with an overview of the health status of your stock.

Johne's Disease and Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) are estimated to cost the New Zealand cattle industry millions of dollars in lost productivity each year, and their symptoms may not always be obvious.

Having a clear picture of your herd's health can help you put a more effective disease control plan in place, improving productivity and providing peace of mind.

Our herd health programme focuses on Johne's Disease and BVD but we can also assist with your other testing requirements.



Why use AsureQuality for herd health testing?

For farmers

- Increase productivity of your herd through disease status information.
- Supports informed discussions with your vet, enabling you to build a robust disease control plan to minimise production losses.
- Cost effective and convenient sampling – it can often be completed while our team are on-farm for TB testing.
- Blood testing identifies those animals that are in the early stages of disease so you can reduce the instance of young stock infections and avoid spread to other stock.
- Reduce risk before transacting on stock for peace of mind.

For vets

- AsureQuality's cost-effective service for sampling and testing for Johne's Disease and BVD offers a great alternative to taking samples yourself.
- Vets can use AsureQuality's laboratory for serum ELISA testing of cattle, goat, and sheep diseases.
- With a snapshot of a herd's health, it's easier to identify areas of risk, enabling you to make better recommendations for further investigation and disease management.

Testing services

AsureQuality provides the following services for Johne's Disease and BVD:

- Sample collection (blood and effluent)
- Laboratory testing of samples following current industry best practice at an accredited AsureQuality laboratory or partner laboratory
- Prompt reporting of results with a copy sent to your vet (or others) if requested
- Basic interpretation of results.

Tests offered for BVD

Whole herd screening to detect infected animals	Blood sample (ELISA)
Calves post weaning or Heifers prior to joining main herd	Blood sample (ELISA)
Service bull testing for BVD and IBR (Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis)	Blood sample (ELISA or PCR as required)

Tests offered for Johne's Disease

To detect if Johne's is present on the property	Effluent sample (PCR)
Whole herd screening to detect infected animals	Blood sample (ELISA)
Infection status of suspect or high risk animals	Faecal sample (PCR)

We can also take samples to test for other diseases and minerals as requested.

Johne's Disease

- Johne's disease affects cattle, sheep and deer and is caused by a bacterium which causes thickening of the intestinal tract, resulting in malabsorption, weight loss and diarrhoea.
- DairyNZ estimates Johne's Disease costs \$40-\$88 million per year in lost production.
- Research indicates that more than 50% of New Zealand dairy farms have had cases of Johne's Disease and it is thought that about 30% of beef farms are affected.
- Up to 30% of deer herds are likely to have had clinical infection.
- A major source of infection in a herd is animals shedding bacteria in their faeces - the bacterium can survive in the ground for up to 18 months.
- Johne's can be spread through feeding milk from infected cows to calves.
- There is no cure for Johne's Disease so quickly diagnosing and removing suspected cases will minimise production losses.

Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD)

- BVD is a highly contagious cattle disease, but most production losses go unnoticed by the farm owner.
- It's estimated to cost New Zealand dairy farmers about \$127m every year in production losses - about \$70,000 per infected average-sized herd per year.*
- Losses on beef farms are estimated to be \$3000-\$9000 per 100 breeding cows in an infected herd each year.*
- About 15% to 20% of dairy herds and at least 65% of beef herds have cattle infected with the virus.*
- Most animals recover after infection, but calves born to heifers infected during pregnancy are aborted or born with a persistent infection. These animals don't always display signs of sickness and spread the virus easily.
- Testing is a critical part of BVD control, helping you identify and remove infected animals and preventing new infections.
- With a combination of testing and vaccination, the cattle industry could eradicate BVD within 5 - 10 years.

* BVD Steering Committee Toolkits for Dairy and Beef.

How to request herd health services

Please speak to your AsureQuality representative or contact herdhealth@asurequality.com to discuss your requirements, book services or arrange sampling/testing.