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## DAIRY INDUSTRY SUCCESS IN TACKLING JOHNE'S DISEASE

Farmers are keen to develop solutions to the tackle Johne's Disease in the British dairy herd.

This was the key message from Dairy Crest Direct and other organisations at the latest meeting of the industry Action Group on Johne's.

The DCD Johne's initiative, which offers free 30 cow milk screening, veterinary and farmer advice and farm risk assessments, has been fully embraced by the DCD membership.

The new measures are all part of the solution to tackling this disease which will help ensure better dairy cow welfare alongside improved farm profitability.

The Action Group on Johne's is a cross-industry body which aims to co-ordinate and focus the range of activities which are being undertaken within the industry to address the issue of Johne's disease on farms and to arrive at common veterinary messages and advice.

Michael Masters of DCD said: "We are delighted that our producer-led initiative has been so enthusiastically supported by our members. Our meetings with milk producers and their vets have been particularly well received. "

Peter Orpin of MyHealthyHerd presented the latest veterinary advice on solutions to Johne's and said: "The Action Group is making good progress in developing a

consistent joined up industry approach to tackling the disease, which will ultimately need clear, consistent farmer information and veterinary training and advice.”

Dairy UK Technical Director Ed Komorowski, who chaired the meeting, said: “The Action Group was set up following Dairy UK’s conference on Johne’s, and this week’s meeting confirms that the industry is united in sharing best practice.”

**-ENDS-**

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### **NOTES FOR EDITORS**

The Action Group on Johne’s will next meet in early June. Members include:

- Dairy UK (Chair)
- Dairy Crest Direct
- DairyCo
- CHECS
- RABDF
- NFU
- Veterinary Laboratories Agency
- BCVA
- Westpoint Veterinary Group Ltd
- Omsco
- RABDF
- Farmers’ Forum
- Dairy UK NI
- Arla Foods UK
- Wiseman’s
- Dairy Crest
- Myhealthyherd
- NMR
- Milk Link
- Farmers Union of Wales

Johne’s disease (or paratuberculosis) is caused by the bacterium *Mycobacterium avium* subspecies *paratuberculosis*, often known as MAP, and is a chronic gastrointestinal infection of adult ruminants characterised by diarrhoea, weight loss, emaciation and eventual death. It is not notifiable in Great Britain although it is in Northern Ireland. It has a worldwide distribution.

### **About Dairy UK:**



*Dairy UK is a trade association that represents the interests of dairy farmers, producer co-ops, milk processors and doorstep deliverymen. For more information visit [www.dairyUK.org](http://www.dairyUK.org). Proud of Dairy is a*

*Dairy UK campaign to raise the profile of the dairy industry. Are you Proud of Dairy too? If so, why not support the campaign by clicking onto [www.proudofdairy.com](http://www.proudofdairy.com) where you can find more details.*