



# PA Johne's Certification Update

January 2007



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Date: January 4, 2007

To: PA Johne's Certified Veterinarians

From: Dave Griswold & Ernest Hovingh, Designated Johne's Coordinators

Re: Update on Johne's funding

The Johne's Disease program funding from USDA for 2006 has expired - unfortunately we were unable to get an extension on this grant. What this means is that, at least for the time being, there is no money available for the incentive payments for newly enrolling farms or to compensate veterinarians for doing new or annual renewal risk assessments and herd management plans (RA/HMP) in 2007. There are some 2006 funds remaining which can be used to pay for any RA/HMPs done before December 31, 2006, but they cannot be used for work dated in 2007. **Please submit any remaining invoices, along with the other required paperwork, as soon as possible.**

We are still waiting to hear from USDA regarding 2007 funding, but the rumors are not encouraging. Since the federal government appears intent on operating under 'continuing resolutions' rather than passing a new budget for this fiscal year, no one at USDA seems to know when funding decisions will be made - leaving us in limbo as well. **The take home message at this time is that there is currently no money for incentives.** The testing fees will remain the same for now, although this may change in the future since these costs were heavily subsidized by USDA grant monies.

Although this situation may make it somewhat less attractive for herds to participate in the PA Johne's Herd Certification Process, we hope that you will still encourage your producers to enroll, or to continue their participation. Hopefully you and they recognize that the benefit of participating in the program is much greater than just the incentive payments! As in the past, it is at the veterinarian's discretion how much to charge the producer for performing the risk assessment and developing the herd management plan.

As a reminder, herds need to have an annual renewal of their HMP with the RA being completed at least in years 1,2 4,6 (and then at least every 4th year) in order to remain enrolled in the program. Status herds must also continue to do the requisite tests within 10 to 14 months of their anniversary date.

We will keep you informed about further changes to the program or funding status. Please contact either of us with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

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