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NEWSFLASH!
 WSDA just announced
 there are funds
 available to pay your
 Johnes Certified
 Veterinarian to perform
 initial or
 follow-up risk
 assessments through the
 end of 2008!

**Special Points
 of Interest:**

Download BioPRYN
 results directly into your
 DairyComp305! Go to
[www.aghealthlabs.com/
 biopryn/download](http://www.aghealthlabs.com/biopryn/download)

Johnes news report.
 A must see!
[www.youtube.com/watch?
 v=w2I8EOf303c](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w2I8EOf303c)

Other Cool Links

www.biotracking.com

Contacts:
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 Crystal Maiden, BS

CHECK OUT THE NEW FEED LAB!

November 2008

If you haven't been by the lab lately you will see Veterinarian's Outlet has moved in with Walco, leaving us with some room to breath and expand the feed lab.



Over the summer we improved the efficiency of our fiber analysis, but it was still difficult to process the number of samples we wanted to due to lack of space. We now will be running multiple hot plates with ADF and NDF samples at one time. We can also filter twice as many samples at a time, allowing us to keep up with high volume days.

The added space also helps us perform additional tests we really didn't have the space to run in the past. In addition to Lignin, we have added methods for analysis of Starch and soluble protein and hope to continue adding services in the future as volume continues to increase.

Check out our NFTA Report Card!

The National Forage Testing Association scores commercial feed labs for accuracy and repeatability of Wet Chemistry feed analysis. The following are Ag Health Labs grades for DM, Protein, ADF and NDF. Though NFTA doesn't officially score Lignin, our lignin values have agreed very well with NFTA values as well as Cumberland Analytical Values.

National Forage Testing Association Certification Grades				
NFTA Sample ID	Dry Matter	Crude Protein	ADF	NDF
2008-AH-01	B	A	B	A
2008-AH-02	A	A	A	A
2008-AH-03	A	A	A	A
2008-GH-04	B	B	A	A

We Grind it All!

“Crohnes Disease Maybe Linked To Beef Consumption”

Johnes disease hasn't been in the news much lately, unless you were watching a CBC News program “The National” this summer. “Crohnes Disease Maybe Linked To Beef Consumption” was the title of a 7 ½ minute report on the possible links between Crohnes disease in humans and Johnes disease in cattle. The organism known to cause Johnes, Mycobacterium avium subspecies paratuberculosis or MAP, is commonly found in people suffering from Inflammatory Bowel Disease or Crohnes disease. However, MAP is not always found in Crohnes patients and there is almost always an abnormality in Crohnes patient's immune systems (auto-immune disorder) leading the human medical community to be divided as to the relationship of MAP and Crohnes.

Yet, if you watch the CBC report the verdict for many people and some experts is already in: Crohnes is being perpetuated by MAP consumption in beef and milk. This is a must see news report for all beef and dairy producers that can be viewed at www.youtube.com/watch?v=w2I8EOf303c. If the media, including the US media, continues to report Johnes and MAP in this light it could have serious effects on buying decisions of US consumers.

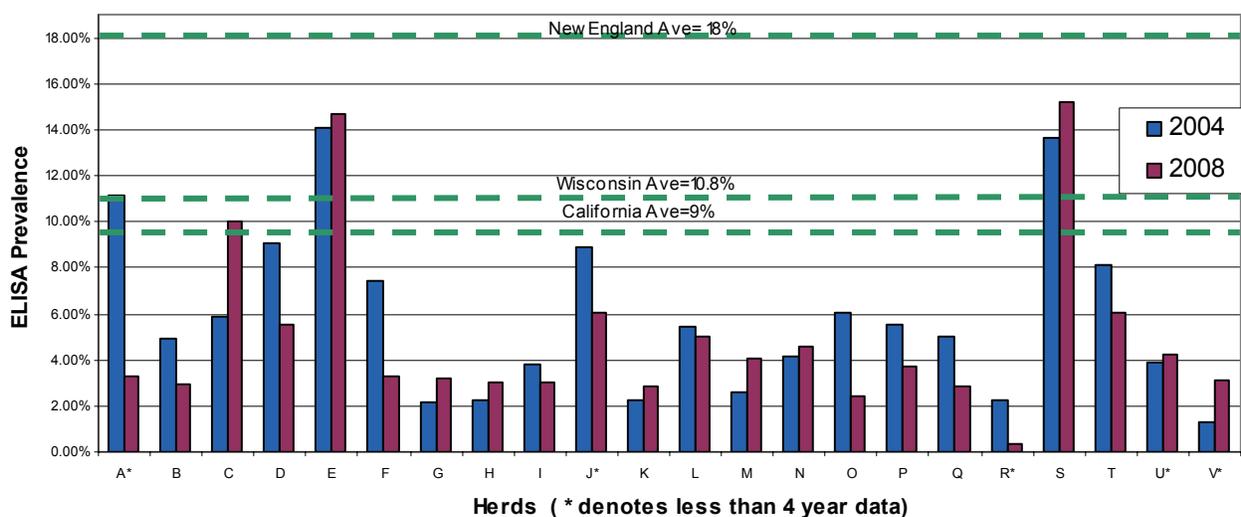
How can we cutoff the media backlash? Be Proactive!

While past funding by the USDA has stimulated many control programs around the country, most of the financial support from congress has been cutoff due to the competition for funds and the very large costs associated with national Johnes control. This leaves Johnes control in the hands of producers and their marketing partners. Much of the Johnes control can be accomplished by management changes to prevent MAP infection of young stock. Additional control can be addressed through testing of Dry cows and isolation of positive cows at calving, discard of colostrum from positive cows, and increased culling pressure on positive cows. Currently the best test available for individual cows is the Johnes serum ELISA, though much work is continuing on new and better tests.

The good news.

For dairies in Eastern Washington who have been on a Johnes control program we can document the improvement achieved through management and testing. Here are the herd prevalence data on herds in our database who have routinely screened dry cows over the past four years:

Johnes Seroprevalence from 2004 to 2008



With a few exceptions, our routinely screened dairies have either reduced Johnes prevalence or held their prevalence to minimal levels. Nearly 70% of these dairies now have less than 4% Johnes prevalence in their herds. Much of the country still sees prevalence within herds of 7 to 18 percent.

Well done Eastern Washington!