



PROGRAMME FLOWCHART FOR HERDOWNERS



REGISTRATION

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- If you are already registered in the programme (one or more years ago), you don't need to do anything further to continue. Your registration will roll over to the next year.
- If not, to register, either:
 - » Go online to http://animalhealthireland.ie/?page_id=344
 - » Email jd@animalhealthireland.ie
 - » Call AHI on 071 967 1928
- Read these two documents below to be sure you know what the IJCP entails:
 - » [Programme requirements](#)
 - » [Technical Manual](#)
- You must nominate an *Approved Veterinary Practitioner* (AVP) when you register.



VRAMP

VETERINARY RISK ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

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- Written by the *Approved Veterinary Practitioner (AVP)* collaboratively with the herdowner.
- Identifies the factors of greatest risk to each farm for the introduction of Johne's disease onto the farm, or spread within the herd and consequential impact.
- Also identifies the priority actions to reduce those risks and impacts.
- Once agreed, the AVP uploads the VRAMP to ICBF.
- Reviewed and updated annually.
- Hints:
 - » After registering, the herdowner should contact the AVP to arrange a VRAMP.
 - » Do the VRAMP either before calving to put in place measures to reduce risk at that critical time, or after calving when you have seen what measures can or must be improved.
 - » Herdowners do not pay the AVP for the VRAMP; it is paid by DAFM. A VRAMP must be completed and uploaded to ICBF by the AVP for the herd to be eligible for funding assistance provided by milk processors for herd testing.





WHOLE HERD TEST

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- Schedule testing:
 - » At least 180 days (6 months) since last year's WHT commenced.
 - » At least 90 days after TB herd test.
 - » At least 7 days after calving.
 - » Avoid milk testing towards the end of lactation.
 - » Do not leave until the end of the year, in case unexpected events arise to prevent completion.
- All 'eligible' cattle must be tested, unless they are exempt from testing.
- Eligible cattle are those on the farm and aged 2 years or more on the date the WHT commences.
- Complete the WHT within 30 days of starting.
- The WHT must be completed (all eligible animals) to be eligible for assistance payment from your milk processor.





WHOLE HERD TEST

ELIGIBLE ANIMALS EXEMPT FROM WHT

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- The WHT requires testing of **all** animals on the farm and aged 2 years or more on the date that the WHT commences, except:
- **Non-breeding cattle**, maintained as a **physically separate unit** on the farm.
- Hints:
 - » To be a physically separate unit, the animals must be continuously maintained in pastures and pens which are not used to graze or house breeding animals or young stock in the herd intended for breeding.
 - » The separation applies to lifetime separation (e.g. a beef finishing unit on a separate outblock), not just the separation of culled cows for fattening.
 - » The separation must be endorsed by the AVP.
 - » Use the notification form [here](#) to notify AHI of exempt animals, otherwise your WHT will not be recorded as complete.





WHOLE HERD TEST

TESTING MILK SAMPLES

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- Testing of milk for JD is done on samples collected for milk recording.
- Arrange with your Milk Recording Organisation (MRO) for JD testing.
- Check the sampling date is suitable.
- Avoid milk testing towards the end of lactation.
- Note any eligible animals that are not currently milking; they will still need to be tested, either by blood or at another time by milk.





WHOLE HERD TEST

TESTING BLOOD SAMPLES

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- Arrange with your *Approved Veterinary Practitioner (AVP)* for JD testing of blood samples.
- Check the sampling date is suitable.
- Ensure all eligible animals to be sampled are presented to the AVP.



WHOLE HERD TEST

SWEEPER TEST

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- All eligible animals in the herd must be tested to complete the WHT.
- If a herd test missed the sampling of some eligible animals, or if some samples were not suitable for testing, a sweeper test is required to complete the WHT.
- Untested eligible animals are listed in the JD Screen on ICBF.
- Sweeper tests may be done using blood or milk samples.
- Hint:
 - » Complete the WHT with a sweeper test within 30 days of starting.





COMPLETION

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- Completion for payment of testing assistance by milk processors requires:
 - » VRAMP completed and uploaded to ICBF by the AVP (except for herds in Year 4 of the *Test-Negative* Pathway).
 - » WHT of all eligible animals (except exempt animals as endorsed by the AVP).
- The JD Screen on ICBF provides essential information on progress and results towards completion of VRAMP and WHT, including listing of untested eligible animals.
 - » There is a Herdowners' User Guide to the ICBF JD Screen.
- An animal with a *Positive* or *Inconclusive* ELISA result should usually be faecal-sampled by an AVP for an ancillary PCR test paid for by DAFM.
 - » Consult your AVP to determine your next step.
 - » A repeat ELISA test may be necessary in some cases.
 - » Some herds that already have a positive PCR/culture result do not require further ancillary testing and any faecal testing will be charged to the herdowner.
- Any herd with a positive PCR test result will undertake a TASAH investigation.





PAYMENTS

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- Completion for payment of testing assistance by milk processors requires completion of both VRAMP and WHT in the respective calendar year.
- Work is proceeding to streamline the process for payments in 2020.
- This page will be updated with details when available.





WHT RESULTS

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- Test results are displayed on ICBF JD Screen, and should also be reported to you by the MRO or AVP who sampled your animals.
- Discuss the result with your AVP; any non-Negative result requires interpretation and immediate planning of the next step.
- Hints:
 - » Non-negative results may be *Positive, Inconclusive, Sample unsuitable* or *Sample empty*.
 - » The next step depends on the reported result, prior PCR test results for the herd, and dates of TB testing or calving.
 - » *Sample unsuitable* or *Sample empty* results will require re-sampling because the submitted sample could not be tested.
 - » *Positive* and *Inconclusive* results may either require re-testing, faecal sampling for PCR tests, or no further action; discuss with your AVP.
 - » DO NOT CULL animals which are non-Negative until discussed with your AVP.





NEGATIVE ELISA RESULTS

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- The test has not detected evidence of an immune response to JD in an animal with a *Negative* ELISA result.
- A *Negative* ELISA result does not guarantee that an animal is not infected, especially in a herd which is known to be infected.
- If all animals in a tested herd are *Negative* to the ELISA test, ordinarily that will be the end of testing until next year.
- Each year of negative whole herd testing provides increasing assurance of low risk of JD that may be declared to potential buyers of cattle.





POSITIVE AND INCONCLUSIVE ELISA RESULTS

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- ELISA results of *Positive* and *Inconclusive* are treated the same in the IJCP; they suggest, but do not confirm, infection.
- Animals with these results are ordinarily re-tested by the ancillary faecal PCR test within 45 days.
- Check with your AVP, but exceptions to the PCR test requirement generally are:
 - » If the herd has had a positive result to a PCR or culture test (the herd and ELISA positive animals are assumed to be infected); and
 - » If samples were taken within 90 days after a TB test or 7 days after calving (for milk sample only), the re-test is done by another ELISA test. You should schedule ELISA testing to avoid the costs of repeat ELISA tests.
- If an ELISA *Positive* or *Inconclusive* animal is not followed up by PCR or repeat ELISA testing as above, it and the herd will be considered to be infected.
- DO NOT CULL *Positive* and *Inconclusive* ELISA animals until discussed with AVP.





PCR TEST

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- The PCR test is performed on faecal samples collected by your AVP.
- The test detects DNA from the bacteria that cause Johne's disease.
- The cost of the PCR test is provided by the programme if the animal to be tested meets the eligibility criteria for funding.
- A PCR test should be conducted as soon as possible and within 45 days following a *Positive or Inconclusive* ELISA test result, if required.





POSITIVE PCR TEST RESULT

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- A *Positive* result to the PCR test confirms the presence of JD on the farm and infection in the herd.
- It is highly likely the *Test-Positive* animal is infected and spreading JD.
- Confirmation of infection by a *Positive* result to the PCR test means that all animals in that herd with *Positive* or *Inconclusive* ELISA test results are assumed to be infected, without the need or funding for further PCR testing.
- A TASAH investigation is conducted for every herd with a *Positive* PCR result.



 TASAHAFLOWCHART 

- All herds for which JD is detected by a *Positive* result to the PCR test must undergo a TASAHA investigation by an AVP.
- The purpose of the TASAHA is to assess the source, extent of spread and impact of the infection. It also serves to inform revised VRAMP measures to mitigate the spread and impact of JD on the farm in the future.
- The cost of a TASAHA investigation is funded by the programme.

**RESPONSIBLE
SELLING OF HIGH-
RISK ANIMALS**FLOWCHART 

- Herdowners in the programme have agreed to prevent the sale of high-risk animals to other herds, to responsibly manage the risk of spread of JD.
- The following animals may be consigned only to slaughter, or to a feedlot (or similar) and then to slaughter:
 - » In a herd with a PCR test result of *Positive*:
 - animals with a *Positive* result to a PCR test,
 - animals with a *Positive* or *Inconclusive* result to an ELISA test.
 - » In other herds, animals which have had a *Positive* or *Inconclusive* result to an ELISA test, and:
 - have not had the appropriate follow-up test, or
 - have had a follow-up PCR test with *Negative* result, only until the next year's WHT.
- No other animals in these herds are constrained.



NEXT YEAR

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- Registrations roll over at the end of one year into the following year.
- Herdowners may withdraw from the IJCP by written notification to AHI.
- There are pathways for *Test-Negative* herds and *Test-Positive* herds.
- *Test-Positive* Pathway applies to herds that have had a *Positive* result to a PCR test (or a *Positive* or *Inconclusive* result to an ELISA test without appropriate follow-up); annual VRAMPs and WHTs are required and funded.
- *Test-Negative* Pathway applies to herds that have negative WHT results; funding for WHTs reduces each year, and funding for annual VRAMPs is maintained except in Year 4, when a VRAMP is not required.
- *Test-Positive* herds may transfer to the *Test-Negative* Pathway by achieving a negative WHT at least 12 months after the last removal of every *Test-Positive* animal from the farm.