



Vet Gillian Whitehurst: "Producers can see Johne's control measures in place"

## Johne's best practice

Vets are inviting producers to on-farm Johne's workshops supported by NML, which already screens many dairy herds for the Johne's-causing MAP bacterium.

Glenthorne Vets' Gillian Whitehurst met dairy clients on a unit on the Derbyshire Staffordshire border to witness Johne's disease control first hand. "The purpose of this meeting was for producers to talk about implementing control plans and to appreciate the complexity of the disease," says Gillian. "We're all learning more about Johne's. It's not an easy disease to eradicate – if it is ever possible – unlike some other diseases like BVD. We have to assess

the risks and control it on each unit." Despite seeing no cases of Johne's on the demonstration unit, Gillian used MyHealthyHerd to assess the risks of infection about three years ago and then tested the whole herd using NMR's quarterly Herdwise screening service which takes milk from the NMR sample. "We found a few infected cows in this 220-cow herd – enough to cause a problem if these cows were not identified and managed differently from the rest of the herd. Quite a few were culled, but we still needed controls in place particularly in the calving areas and with colostrum management.

"Producers were very open and I think it really helped them appreciate that

### Chart toppers

Here are the three 100-tonne cows that ranked top for Lifetime Daily Yield (LDY) at the end of last year – December 2012.

A full list is on the NMR website.

1. Saddlers Up Ida 105 yielded 102,963kg of milk in her fifth lactation and has an LDY of 30.24kg/day. Owned by G Lambert & Partners, Stockbridge, Hants.
2. 278 – 107,652kg of milk in eight lactations and with an LDY of 28.64kg/day. Owned by T C Cox, Puddletown, Dorset.
3. Mittonvale Marshall Bredstrew 826 has produced 100,546kg of milk in six lactations and has an LDY of 28.05kg/day. Owned by C Middleton, Mitton Whalley, Lancashire.

Johne's control is not a one-off job. I am hoping that all my dairy clients carry out a risk assessment and that we can develop a good Johne's control programme. There's never any room for complacency with Johne's."