

## **Johne's Disease Survey: Your Responses**

Our last issue of the Colorado Dairy News included a survey regarding current awareness and concern about Johne's disease. We intended to use results of the survey to help target educational seminars for dairy producers later this Spring.

So far we have received 47 responses, of which 41 were from producers. Those who responded were well-established, averaging 30 years in operation. Thirty of these producers had read our "Johne's Awareness" article, published earlier in the Fall and found it had significantly increased their knowledge of the problem.

About 50% of the producers purchase replacement heifers, a significant risk factor for introducing Johne's disease. Only 20% reported previous diagnosis of Johne's on their operation, about half of the expected rate based on projections from a recent national survey of disease prevalence.

The survey responses showed a broad need for further information. Of the 41 producers 28 perceived Johne's to be a moderate to major problem for the dairy industry, and 34 were moderately to highly concerned about introduction of the disease to their herd. Yet 32 employed no management strategies to prevent introduction of the disease, 31 were poorly to moderately informed about the agent, 34 were minimally to moderately familiar with management of the disease, and 36 were unfamiliar to moderately familiar with testing strategies. Similarly, 32 producers did not employ management strategies to control the disease within the herd.

We feel strongly that your decisions concerning the monitoring and management of disease in your herd should be formulated on the basis of sound knowledge. To this end it appears producer education about Johne's disease would be very useful in helping you discuss what testing and control strategies would be appropriate for your operation.

The more we know about your needs, the better we can target our efforts. Those who have not yet responded to our survey, please help by sending yours today. For your convenience, there will be extra copies of the survey available at both the Nutrition Conference and Dairy Days Program in Greeley.