

## *Johne's Disease Certification for Colorado Veterinarians*

Last Spring a Voluntary Bovine Johne's Disease (JD) Control Program was approved and adopted for the state of Colorado. This program follows the national guidelines for JD programs, so that it is consistent with programs being adopted by other states. There are three levels of participation available to cattle producers; education, management, and testing. The program is completely voluntary, and is designed to be user-friendly.

The program was developed by the Colorado Johne's Disease Advisory Committee, with representatives from the livestock industries, academia, and the regulatory agencies. The current chairperson of the committee is Mike Veeman. Dr. Ron Ackerman, our Assistant State Veterinarian, is the Designated Johne's Coordinator for the state. You can contact either of these individuals to get more information. The State Veterinarian's office or Bill Wailes, our Dairy Extension Specialist, can supply you with either a brochure that summarizes the program or the complete detailed program guidelines.

In order for dairy producers to participate, the first step is education about the disease and the program. Included in this step is a farm evaluation that assesses the risks for JD transmission. In order for you and your veterinarian to participate at this level, or to move forward to higher levels in the program, it is important that all parties are well informed about the program. Colorado Veterinarians who perform diagnostic testing for JD are required to obtain state-sponsored training pertaining to the regulations and methods of these tests.

On Monday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2003, there will be a day-long continuing education program for veterinarians licensed in Colorado who wish to become certified to test cattle in this state. The training program will be held at Colorado State University, Fort Collins, to enable veterinarians attending the CSU Annual Conference for Veterinarians, January 11-13, 2003, to become certified in JD control. Registration / attendance at the CSU Annual Conference for Veterinarians is not a prerequisite for attendance at the JD certification program on the 13<sup>th</sup>. The certification training program is free to licensed Colorado veterinarians.

The location (building and room) of the training program will be announced. Interested individuals are requested to pre-register by contacting Ms. Lori Williams at (970) 491-1274. Registration for this certification program will also be available on-site during the CSU Annual Conference for Veterinarians.

Please discuss this program with your veterinarian. We encourage all Colorado dairy producers to participate in this voluntary program at some level.