

# JOHNE'S DISEASE



Johne's disease is a chronic intestinal disorder primarily of ruminants and is caused by *Mycobacterium avium* subsp. *paratuberculosis* (*M. ptb*).

The disease is most commonly transmitted to young animals when they ingest *M. ptb* in feces from infected adults. Infected animals can also shed *M. ptb* in their milk and colostrum.

Symptoms of Johne's disease include:

- An overall decreased productivity
- Diarrhea
- Weight loss despite a good appetite

The Colorado Voluntary Bovine Johne's Disease Control (CVBJDC) Program was implemented in 2003 to provide education about Johne's disease and help producers identify management procedures to reduce the risk of transmission of the disease to other animals.

The Rocky Mountain Regional Animal Health Laboratory (RMRAHL) offers one screening test and three official tests under the CVBJDC. These tests are the enzyme-linked immnosorbent assay (ELISA), solid culture, liquid culture, and a DNA probe. RMRAHL can pool up to five fecal samples for liquid culture.

RMRAHL is USDA certified to perform all of these testing services.

RMRAHL prides itself on reliable, timely and helpful service to our veterinarian customers. Visit our website for more information about our services.

## Colorado Department of Agriculture Division of Animal Industry



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