

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. If interested in learning more about the program contact Dr. Ken Newens at 303-963-6089.

The Rocky Mountain Regional Animal Health Laboratory (RMRAHL) offers one screening test and two official tests under the CVBJDC. These tests are the enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA), liquid culture, and a fecal PCR. RMRAHL can also pool up to five fecal samples for testing. Call the lab for more details.

RMRAHL is USDA certified to perform all of these testing services. If you have any questions regarding testing call Tiffany Brigner at 303-477-0049. You can also visit our website for more information about our services.

Colorado Department of Agriculture Division of Animal Industry



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