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## OPEN FORUM

Johne's Programs – What do we need? How do we get there?

### Questions for Discussion

- Does the current program meet producer/industry needs? *Uncertain*
- If not, what changes are needed to better meet those needs?
  
- *Noted that the % of cows in the program is higher than the % herds*
- *Producers are using the information in ways not captured by the program...they are using the information, but not enrolling*
- *Beef seed stock are using it as a marketing tool to differentiate their animals and minimize liability*
- *Different programs are needed by different types of operations*
  - *Large producers use it as a management tool, not for sales*
  - *Interest in BMP's to address Johne's and other disease... would rather not know the specific Johne's status, but interest in reducing level*
  - *"Best Test" has had positive impact and increased interest in testing*
  
- **What program elements are most critical to producers and those who work with them?**
  - *(Risk Assessment, Management Plans, Testing, cost share on these items, Certified herds, Approved labs, Information availability...)*
  - *All are important, how do we do them more efficiently?*
  - *Risk assessment gets us in the door, it applies to many things. The personal contact at the farm with RA gets us where we need to be. Funding cuts are starting to show up as we aren't able to do the Risk Assessments*
  - *WA electronic Risk Assessments are being used with good results*
  - **Questions**
    - *With Federal funding cut, what happens to state share?*
    - *Who does the RA? Private, state or Fed? Varies by state. Private vets work it into regular work, Shortage of vets makes this a challenge*
    - *DHIA is offering milk ELISA, are they working with vets? How do we include this?*
    - *How many BMP programs are run by state vs. industry?*
  
- **What other information is needed? Who needs it? How can we provide it most effectively?**
  - *Local information transfer is important. Work with trade associations, Coops, Want to be "pro-active" on issues*
  - *Need to make sure that the JDIP Producer survey is successful. Need to get good response to the survey. Work with Coop's etc. to get the word out.*
  - *We need to be prepared to answer "What have we gotten for the \$80m that has been spent?"*
  - *Some states are looking at what has been done, but what are the appropriate questions? We generally don't have a good baseline for comparison.*

- *MN has been doing some analysis of program results in herds with multiple years of data. They show that the program works in herds that stay with it.*
  - *One program advantage is that Lab work is more consistent now than it was originally.*
  - *Question as to if ID is raising liability issues for producers, especially seed stock producers?*
  - *Noted: It used to be that people didn't want their neighbor to know if they had a positive animal, now it doesn't matter as much?*
- **What funding is required to make those elements available? How do we make the most effective use of future federal funding? What funding options currently exist? Are there others that should be explored?**
    - *Amend the program standards so that it is not necessary to do a Risk Assessment every year.*
    - *Require matching state dollars for federal dollars...but noted that in many cases state funding is a challenge. Could there be Industry match funding?*
    - *Streamline the cooperative agreement process, funding hold ups make it difficult to complete the work*
    - *Current federal budget process causes "waves" in funding availability and the work load. This makes it very difficult to maintain a program.*
    - *Question on what are priorities in USDA?*
    - *Keep talking to DMI as it relates to issues around Johne's and possible support of efforts.*
- **Are there industry activities/initiatives relative to Johne's Disease that we should be aware of? Would it be useful to find ways to include them as part of the program?**
    - *Various Coop programs are moving forward and need to be encouraged*
    - *DHIA milk ELISA testing offers opportunities. Producers have questions on how to most effectively use it as a management tool.*
    - *Encourage DJC's to work with DHIA on the use of the test.*
- **Where do we go for added input???**
    - *It is unlikely that we will get substantial numbers of producers at "typical NJWG meeting", so we need to look to go to producer meetings.*
    - *Cooperative meetings, NMPF/DMI Meeting, World Dairy Expo*
- **Other Issues???**
    - *Is there an end date for the Demo Herds? They are beginning to yield useful information, but probably do not run indefinitely.*
    - *Need to communicate to Congress the value of the herds and the importance of funding to complete the collection and analysis of the data being generated*
- **Steps forward**
    - *Do everything possible to assure success of the Producer Survey*
    - *Continue to seek input on needed program direction*