ABS Global
A.I. Perspective on Johne’s Disease

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A.I. Center

- Create an assembled herd
- Multiple herds as sources of sires
- Source herds are assembled herds
- 1. Purchased “bull” mothers
- 2. Purchased recipients
- 3. Other purchases
Transmission

- semen
- infectious dose by intra-uterine route is unknown
- however, it appears to be many orders of magnitude greater than the numbers of organisms found in contaminated semen.
Transmission
Transmission

*NOT* been shown to be transmissible by commercially processed semen
Vendor - Client Management

• Communication with and education of source herd managers regarding Johne’s disease is essential.

• Packets, herd visits, teleconferences
  Approach seems to work

• Owners, managers, herd veterinarians
Sire Health

- In General
- Herds with Johne’s management programs are not censured
- Herds with no Johne’s management program and known disease are avoided if no commitment to implement and maintain a Johne’s disease management program
Sire Health Management

- Sero-positive or fecal culture positive bulls are culled or isolated
- Testing is done on all resident herd bulls
Fecal cultures and in some cases PCR testing is routinely done either 1x or 2x per year

Serology is used to screen bulls on farm and done routinely 2x per year
ABS’ Program

• ABS Instituted Whole Herd Testing in 1991

• International Trade Started Requiring Johnes fecal culture tests at least annually from donor bulls
ABS’ Program

• Article Suggested Detection of Johnes Disease by Fecal Culture in Yearling Heifers is Possible, we decided to try it in bulls (Kalis CHJ et al. 1999. J Vet Diagn Invest 11:345-351)
We wondered if it would be cost-effective to begin fecal cultures as early as 10 months of age
Johne’s disease testing

First Test
• Johnes fecal testing at 10.5 Months of Age or Two weeks after Arrival Which ever Came First

Second Test
• Follows first at about 12-12.5 months of age
• Subsequent Samples September and March
Johnes fecal Culture Positive Bulls by Birth Year

* estimated
Johne’s disease update

- Follow-up report from the 2006 presentation to the Johne’s Disease Committee
Johne’s fecal Culture Positive Bulls by Birth Year

* estimated
Johne’s fecal Culture Positive Bulls by Birth Year

- '01: 16
- '02: 13
- '03: 10
- '04: 8
- '05: 3
- '06: 7
- '07: 10
- '08: 10
- '09: 12
Johne’s fecal Culture Positive Bulls
Johne’s fecal culture positive bulls
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