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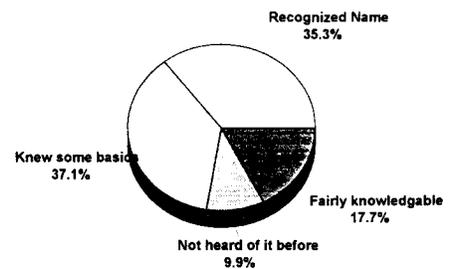
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA  
UNITED STATES OF MINNESOTA

**Minnesota's Johne's Disease Program  
An Update  
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**Introduction**

Johne's disease was identified more than a century ago, yet remains a common and sometimes costly infectious disease of cattle. In spite of this, many U.S. cattle producers are unfamiliar with Johne's disease. The National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) Dairy '96 Study report showed that 45% of dairy producers were either unaware of Johne's disease or recognized the name but knew little else about it (Figure 1). The results of the recent NAHMS Beef '97 Study

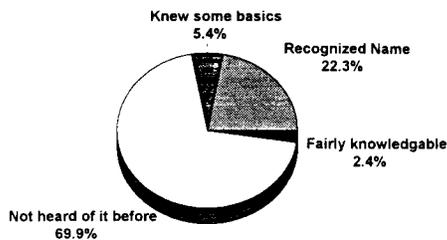
**Dairy Producer Familiarity with Johne's Disease**



**Percent Operations**

**Figure 1**

**Beef Producer Familiarity with Johne's Disease**



**Percent Operations**

**Figure 2**

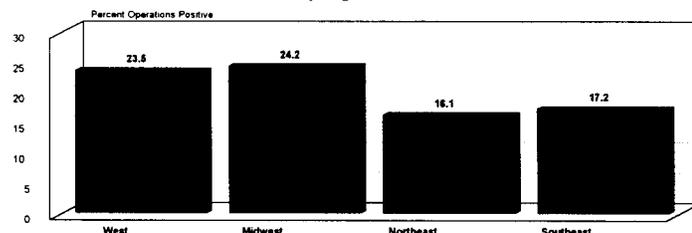
showed an even lower familiarity with Johne's disease by beef producers (Figure 2). This lack of familiarity has hindered control and prevention of Johne's disease in this country, and efforts are currently underway to change this state of awareness.

**What is the magnitude of the problem?**

Results of the USDA Dairy 96 Study estimated that about 22% of U.S. dairies are infected with the Johne's disease organism. Larger herds are more likely to be infected, as about 40% of the herds with at least 300 cows were infected, compared to less than 20% of herds with less than 50 cows. The larger the herd the higher the risk of Johne's disease.

Only minor regional differences were noted (Figure 3), indicating that dairy producers in all regions of the country need to consider implications and risks associated with this disease.

**Percent Operations Positive\* for M. paratuberculosis by Region**



\* 2 or more cows test positive OR 1 cow test positive and at least 5% of cull cows with clinical signs

**Figure 3**

The number of herds with cattle that tested positive for Johne's disease in Minnesota has increased substantially over the past ten years (Figure 4). Over 1,400 cattle herds have had at least one cow test positive for Johne's disease. Those herds are widely distributed throughout the state. Approximately 80% of those herds are dairies.

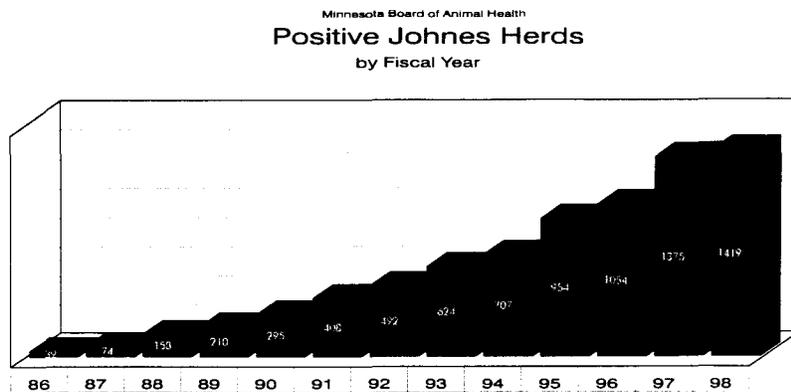


Figure 4

### Results of Testing Program

The 1997 Legislature appropriated \$80,000 for a Johne's disease program in Minnesota. An industry advisory meeting was held on June 24, 1997 to discuss how the funds could best be utilized. The consensus of the group was that raising the level of awareness of Johne's disease and assisting with the cost of testing should be our primary goals. In response to these

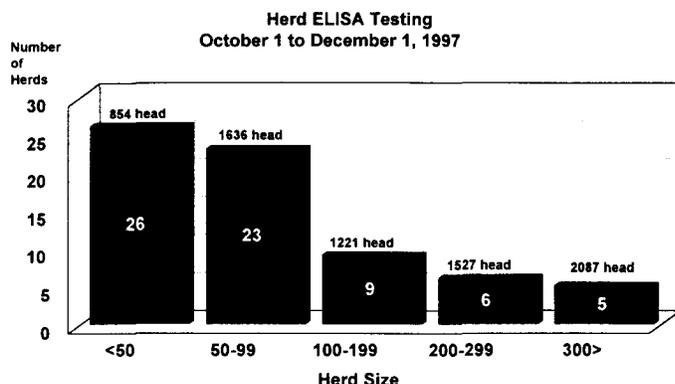


Figure 5

recommendations the Board implemented a four part program. In one part of the program the Board used the funds to pay for the laboratory cost of samples submitted to the Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory for Johne's testing. The program started October 1, 1997 and had to be discontinued December 1, 1997 due to lack of funds. During the two months approximately 7,500 head of cattle were tested in over 300 Minnesota herds. The herds that were tested were fairly evenly distributed as far as herd size was

concerned (Figure 5). The overall percentage of positive tests in all herd testing done was 4.7% (Figure 6).

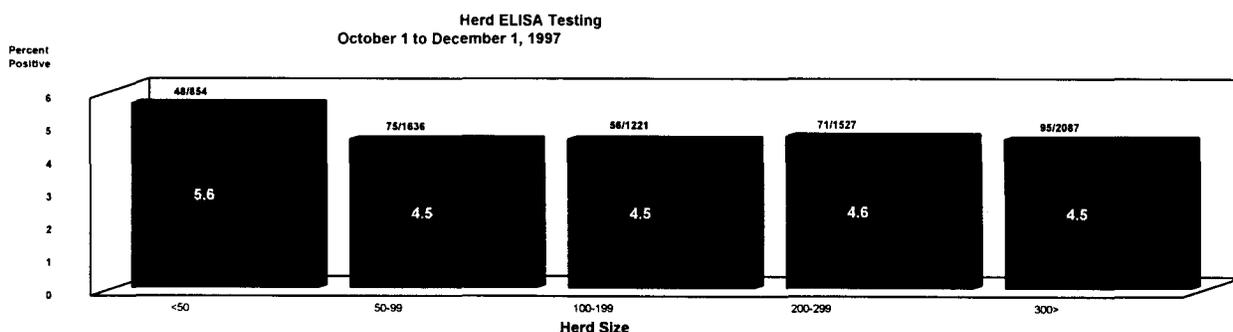


Figure 6

## Reference

Wells, S., Hansen, D., and Garry, F. Who can afford a \$200 loss per cow? OR Johne's disease - what do I need to know? National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) Report/Dairy 96.