

JOHNE'S DISEASE TESTING GUIDANCE

Phase 1 of the GVS-MGA Johne's Control Plan is to determine the Johne's status of your herd. You can do this using the following

Cull goat screen

Test all cull goats leaving the farm
over a 12 month period

Suitable for farms that vaccinate or
have no known Johne's history

USE

- Pooled faecal PCR (pool in groups of up to 10 animals)
- Individual milk or blood ELISA (not in vaccinated herds)

10% herd screen

Test 10% of the adult herd

Select goats that are most likely to be
positive e.g. older goats, those

showing some weight loss

Suitable for farms that have some
evidence of Johne's disease or have
had positive cases in the past

USE

- Pooled faecal PCR (pool in groups of up to 10 animals)
- Individual milk or blood ELISA (not in vaccinated herds)

The tests



Faecal PCR



This detects MAP bacteria in faeces and is very accurate. You can use pooled samples (up to 10 individuals) and results are usually available in about 7 days.



Culture



This detects MAP bacteria in faeces and is also very accurate but results take up to 16 weeks. It is also relatively expensive.



ELISA



This detects antibodies (the goat's immune response) to MAP and the test can be done on either milk or blood samples. A positive result is always significant but as goats only develop antibodies relatively late (this may be some time after the animal starts shedding) it will not detect goats that are incubating and may miss early shedders. Results are usually available in a few days and the test is relatively cheap.

