

## HerdWise rule change

### What is New?

We launched our \*New\* HerdWise classification change on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2018, this change was implemented to keep in line with new research and to highlight the importance of high risk cows and their ability to be super shedders.

HerdWise classifications use the **last 4 test results** to assign a J category and colour to each cow. Currently we use the last 4 **herd tests** rather than **cow tests**, this means that a cow will miss a test when she is dry or out of the tank and that will make her status less accurate. With this new system her status will be based on **her** last 4 test results even if she missed the last herd test. This will make the system much more robust and easier to understand.

With management of high risk cows being the cornerstone of Johne’s control these changes are designed to ensure that you are able to quickly identify these problem cows and reduce the chances of a Johne’s shedder slipping through the net.

The other major changes are:

- Currently to become ‘Red’ a cow has to have two consecutive positive tests (>30). Now she will only need 2 positive tests in 4 to become ‘Red’. And don’t forget, once she’s ‘Red’ she stays ‘Red’ for the rest of her life.
- Currently J2 cows are classified as Green even though they have had a positive result in their last 4 tests. This doesn’t fit with what we know about the disease. Although we can’t be absolutely sure that she has Johne’s we should definitely be treating her as a risk, so she shouldn’t be Green. In the new system J2 will be classified as Amber.

### New classification table

Current				New				
Risk level	HerdWise classification	Johne’s infection group	Definition	Risk level	HerdWise classification	Johne’s infection group	Definition	Infection status
Low	Green	J0	Repeat ELISA –ve (minimum two tests)	Low	Green	J0	Repeat ELISA negative – minimum two tests.	Low risk - no evidence of infection.
	Green	J1	ELISA –ve but only one test		Green	J1	ELISA negative - one test only.	
	Green	J2	ELISA –ve but +ve with three previous tests	High	Yellow	J2	ELISA negative but positive within previous three tests.	Moderate risk - evidence of infection and may be shedding MAP. Should be managed as a risk for calving and milk/colostrum).
High	Yellow	J3	ELISA –ve/+ve interchangeably	Yellow	J3	ELISA negative but positive on previous test.		
	Yellow	J4	Last ELISA +ve, all previous tests –ve	Yellow	J4	ELISA positive – first positive test.		
	Red	J5	Repeat ELISA +ve (minimum two tests)	Red	J5	Repeat ELISA positive - minimum two tests. <b>Two or more positive results in any four consecutive tests at any time in individual cow test history.</b>	High risk – evidence of infection and highly likely to be shedding MAP (i.e. high level of infectivity).	

### **What do these changes mean for me?**

When you have your next round of Johne's testing you may see some changes in the number of red and amber cows. With the change to how we classify 'Red' cows you may end up with more than you had before, don't worry, this is just making sure we identify as many high risk cows as possible, we don't want these cows disappearing off your radar. Also, as J2 cows are now amber rather than green, you may see an increase in your number of amber cows; again, don't worry it's just to ensure these cows don't slip through the net.

### **Has the test changed?**

We have not changed the test we use, or the test cut-off of 30, you will have the same number of Johne's positive cows, so your herd prevalence will not change.

We have notified milk purchasers and retailers of this change so they are aware of the impact this may have on your number of red and amber cows. Your vet has also been informed so they can continue to provide you with the best on-going advice.

We hope that you will see these changes as a positive measure in helping you to better control Johne's on your farm, but we understand you may have questions; and we are here to help. Please contact us at [herdwise@nmr.co.uk](mailto:herdwise@nmr.co.uk)