

Descriptive Guidelines for Scoring Risk Factors for Beef Herds

(adapted from "How to Do Risk Assessments and Management Plans for Johne's Disease")

Calving Area		Risk	
Risk Factors	Scoring guidelines	Level	Score
Is the calving area (corral or pasture) used for more than one calving cow at a time?	Single pen use. Calving area with moderate cow in calving areas. Heavy cow concentration in calving area.	Low Moderate High	0-1 4-6 8-10
Does manure build-up in the calving area pose a risk for calf ingestion?	Area always clean and dry. Fair to moderate manure visible. Extensive manure contamination and build up.	Low Moderate High	0-1 4-6 8-10
Are calving cow's udders soiled with manure?	90% of udders are clean and dry. Moderate amount on udders of 20% - 40% of cows. Udders are manure covered on a majority of cows.	Low Moderate High	0-1 4-6 8-10
Are high risk / JD clinical and suspects in calving area?	Almost never. Low risk suspects in calving area. High risk / JD clinicals are in calving area.	Low Moderate High	0-1 4-6 8-10

Nursing Calf Group		Risk	
Risk Factor	Scoring guidelines	Level	Score
Are cow/calf pairs pastured with JD clinical or suspect cattle?	Never or rarely. Occasionally. Frequently.	Low Moderate High	0-1 4-6 8-10
Does manure build up in the pasture posing a risk for calf ingestion?	Area always clean and dry. Minimal visible manure to area about 50% manure-free. 50% to extensive manure contamination.	Low Moderate High	0-1 4-6 8-10
Can calf's water be contaminated with cow / bull manure any time?	Never to rarely. Occasionally from a few sources. Frequently from many sources.	Low Moderate High	0-1 4-6 8-10
Can calf's feed be contaminated with cow / bull manure any time?	Never to rarely. Occasionally. Frequently or always.	Low Moderate High	0-1 4-6 8-10
Are sick calves kept with or near sick cows?	Almost never. Sick calf pen adjacent to sick cow pen. Sick calves are penned with sick cows.	Low Moderate High	0-1 4-6 8-10

Weaned Calves Group		Risk	
Risk Factor	Scoring guidelines	Level	Score
Do weaned calves have contact with mature cattle or their manure?	Never to rarely. Occasionally from a few sources. Frequently from many sources.	Low Moderate High	0-1 3-4 6-7
Is it possible for manure from mature cattle to contaminate the feed?	Never to rarely. Occasionally from a few sources. Frequently from many sources.	Low Moderate High	0-1 3-4 6-7
Is it possible for manure from mature cattle to contaminate water sources?	Never to rarely. Occasionally from a few sources. Frequently from many sources.	Low Moderate High	0-1 3-4 6-7
Do heifers or young bulls share pasture with mature cattle?	Never to rarely. Occasionally. Frequently or always.	Low Moderate High	0-1 3-4 6-7
Is manure spread on forage then fed to heifers or young bulls?	Never to rarely. Occasionally. Frequently or always.	Low Moderate High	0-1 3-4 6-7

Bred Heifers and Yearling Bulls		Risk	
Group Risk Factor	Scoring guidelines	Level	Score
Do heifers or yearling bull have contact with mature cattle or their manure?	Never to rarely. Occasionally from a few sources. Frequently from many sources.	Low Moderate High	0-1 2-3 4-5
Is it possible for manure from mature cattle to contaminate the feed?	Never to rarely. Occasionally from a few sources. Frequently from many sources.	Low Moderate High	0-1 2-3 4-5
Is it possible for manure from mature cattle to contaminate the water used by bred heifers or yearling bulls?	Never to rarely. Occasionally from a few sources. Frequently from many sources.	Low Moderate High	0-1 2-3 4-5
Do bred heifers or yearling bulls share pasture with mature cattle any time?	Never to rarely. Occasionally. Frequently or always.	Low Moderate High	0-1 2-3 4-5
Is manure spread on forage then fed to bred heifers or yearling bulls?	Never to rarely. Occasionally. Frequently or always.	Low Moderate High	0-1 2-3 4-5

Adult Animals (over 24 months of age)		Risk	
Risk Factor	Scoring guidelines	Level	Score
Is it possible for feed to be contaminated with manure?	Never to rarely. Occasionally from a few sources. Frequently or always from many sources.	Low Moderate High	0-1 2 3-4
Is manure contamination of the water possible?	Never to rarely. Occasionally from a few sources. Frequently or always from many sources.	Low Moderate High	0-1 2 3-4
Do cows have access to accumulated or stored manure?	Never to rarely. Occasionally. Frequently or always.	Low Moderate High	0-1 2 3-4
Is manure spread on forage and grazed or fed the same season?	Never to rarely. Occasionally. Frequently or always.	Low Moderate High	0-1 2 3-4

Additions / Replacements

*All animals added to the herd (over at least the last 12 months) should be accounted for, possibly resulting in numerous in entries which are summed to arrive at a total risk score for this area. Even though it is not scored, a question should also be asked about **planned** additions and replacements from outside sources over the next 12 months. If the herd is truly closed this area is scored a "0". Do not forget about bulls, ET recipients, and other non-dairy cattle (and small ruminant) additions.*