

## Announcing –Johne’s Focus Farms – from plans to action.....!

Getting the right solutions to management problems is a major thrust of the Johne’s program. After doing a RAMP with your vet were you left with a variety of options and solutions? How will you decide what to do first? What changes are the most important and practical to do?

DFO, on behalf of the Ontario Johne’s Industry Working Group, under Growing Forward Biosecurity programming has received support for an innovative educational project to help producers bring their management plans to action.

The Ontario Johne’s Focus Farms project runs from August 1st 2010 to Sept 1<sup>st</sup> 2012. Described as a combination of the management club approach with producer-selected demonstrations the project will work with small groups of producers. Nine host farms, called “Focus Farms”, each supporting a learning group of 10 to 15 dairy farmers, will be established across Ontario. The groups will meet about three times per year over the two years of the project. The timing of meetings, the number and the type will vary depending on the direction the group takes. The groups will decide on the best educational experiences for their situation. These could include farm visits, discussion sessions, demonstrations, field trips and interaction with experts. Groups will receive help planning and running their activities from a facilitator. Solutions will be monitored and experiences shared within and among groups. Producer participants are expected to be those with an interest in management solutions, not necessarily because their herd has Johne’s, but because they believe protecting their herd from infectious diseases is essential for a good dairy farm!



### **The outcome:**

The anticipated outcome is the discovery and adoption of innovative, practical, technologies to improve calf, heifer and cow health and stop Johne’s disease on the Focus and support farms.

As part of the project, the facilitators for the groups will receive professional facilitation training in the fall of 2010 and the opportunity to work with experienced Focus Farms coordinators for the first 12 months. Facilitators can expect to become exceptional motivators for change.

### **How can you get involved?**

If you would like to know more about becoming involved in the Focus Farm experience as a producer participant, a host, a group sponsor or a trained facilitator please get in touch with us

**BEFORE JULY 15<sup>th</sup>.** (No commitment is required immediately, although we hope to have the main positions filled by late-August)

The Ontario Johne’s Working Group Committee representatives:

Ann Godkin [ann.godkin@ontario.ca](mailto:ann.godkin@ontario.ca) 519-846-3409

Richard Cantin [rcantin@canwestdhi.com](mailto:rcantin@canwestdhi.com) 519-824-2320

George MacNaughton [gmacnaug@milk.org](mailto:gmacnaug@milk.org) 905-821-8970