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Participant Information Sheet

Tackling bottlenecks to the use of data for enhanced Johne's Disease control

You are being invited to an on-line farmer meeting relating to Johne's Disease arranged through your vet practice. This is part of a broader research study investigating the management of Johne's Disease in the UK. Before attending it is important that you understand why the research is being done and what the study will involve. There is no obligation for you to do more than attend the meeting and you can leave the meeting at any point. However, we will subsequently contact a few farmers and vets to ask if they could answer a small number of questions.

Please take the time to read the following carefully. If anything is unclear or you would like further information, please contact us on the details at the top of this sheet.

What is the purpose of this study?

This project investigates the barriers to farmers and vets' management of Johne's Disease, an infectious ruminant disease that is prominent in dairy herds. Despite the prevalence of Johne's Disease across the UK, many dairy farmers are not able to implement the recommended measures to manage the disease due to a wide range of factors. We want to explore farmers and vets' motivations for implementing successful Johne's Disease management practices, what the barriers to Johne's Disease control are and how they can be overcome.

Why have I been invited to participate?

We want to talk to a range of farmers and vets from across the UK to understand their opinions and attitudes towards Johne's Disease and the relevant management practices.

Do I have to take part?

Your participation in this study is voluntary and if you do choose to take part, you can withdraw at any time. You will be provided with a consent form which details what you are consenting to if you take part in this study.

What will happen at the meeting?

You have been invited to join a Johne's Disease meeting run by Pete Orpin, James Hanks and Rosie Morrison. The meeting will be online, via Zoom, with a target number of around 20 farmers, principally from your vet practice. In advance of the meeting you will receive a

Johne's Disease report based on the analysis of Johne's Disease milk ELISA and milk recording data from NMR/CIS via InterHerd+. While example reports will be available, wherever possible we would like these reports to be based on the farmers' own milk recording data. The interpretation of the report contents will be explained during the meeting. No data or reports from attendees will be shared or discussed with others during the meeting. As the meeting is online you will be able to study your reports in private.

The meeting will begin with a short anonymous poll on your opinion of current Johne's Disease management practices. This will then be followed by a talk by Pete Orpin and James Hanks bringing you up to date with the most recent advice on control of Johne's Disease. Reference will be made to the report received in advance, highlighting different categories of infection, different herd scenarios and options for farmers and vets to work together in managing the disease out of the herd. The meeting will then turn into a discussion in which farmers and vets can vocalise their thoughts and opinions on Johne's Disease and its management

The meeting will last no longer than 2 hours and will not be recorded. Notes will be taken by researchers on the themes and topics discussed, but no named data will be stored. The notes will be stored on Cranfield University's network which will only be accessible by authorised users. They may also be stored on an open access data repository according to UKRI standards, but this data will be anonymous and cannot be traced back to you. Although anonymous notes of the meeting may be used in scientific publications.

What will happen after the meeting?

You may be contacted at a later date and invited to participate in an in-depth interview on Johne's Disease management. If you agree to that, you will be provided with a new information sheet and consent form.