

Why Not Test and Cull?

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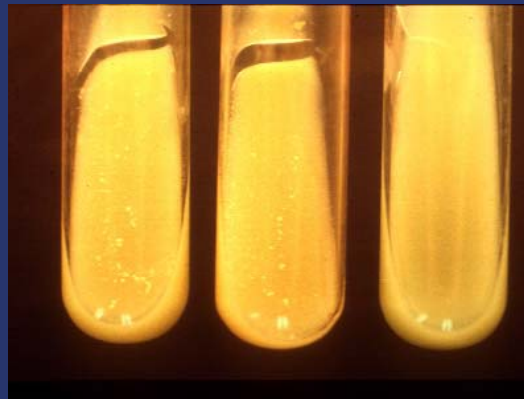
Alberta Agriculture and Food

Why can't I test all of my cows, cull all of the JD positives and get rid of the disease?

- Because it doesn't work
- If it was that simple we wouldn't be here today.

Test considerations

- Low sensitivity (false negatives)
- Low specificity (false positives)
- Length of time for results
- Cost of the test



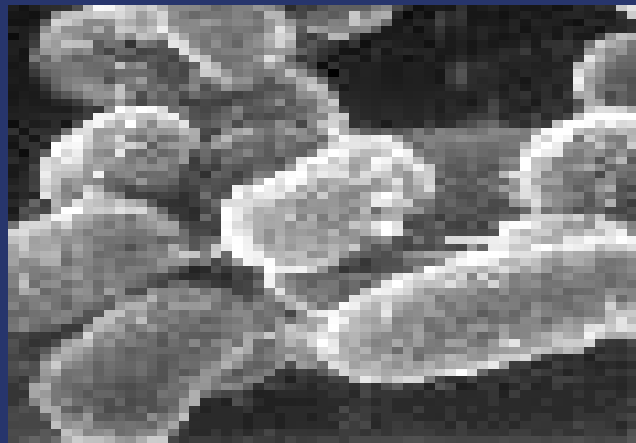
Animal Considerations

- Long incubation period
- Low level of antibody response
- Intermittent shedding
- Pass through shedders



MAP Organism Considerations

- Intracellular organism
- Slow growing



Does this meant that we shouldn't test?

- No
- There are some very good reasons to test for JD
 - Determine if a herd is infected
 - Monitor progress in JD management

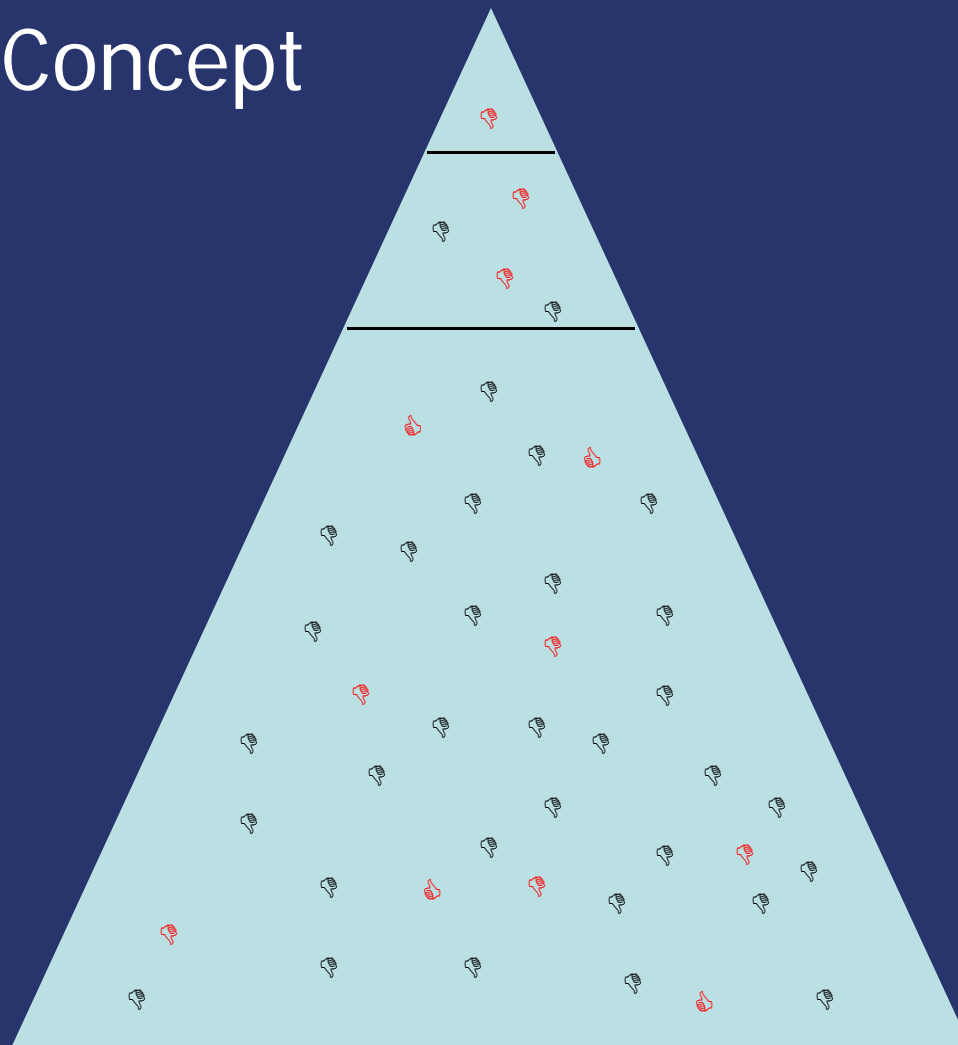
Does this mean that we shouldn't cull?

- No
- Selective culling of JD positive or suspect cows will reduce the environmental contamination
 - Reducing contamination should reduce the number of new infections

What does it mean?

- It means that we should not use a program that relies on testing and culling to reduce the prevalence of disease.
- We will be disappointed with the results and frustrated with the expense and time that it takes.

Iceberg Concept



What does it mean?

- Testing and culling can be used to complement best management practices
- It should not be used alone.



Questions?

