

FARM NEWS



NOVEMBER 2009



in brief...

IBR BOOSTERS

Annual IBR herd booster vaccinations are due now that cows are being housed for the winter. This corresponds to the greatest risk period for disease transmission; vaccination is a cheap and easy way to prevent the respiratory disease, abortions, milk drop and production losses that we associate with IBR. Please ring the farm office to discuss your Bovilis IBR requirements or speak to one of the vets if you are concerned about the IBR status of your herd.

ZACTRAN

Zactran is a new antibiotic for the treatment of pneumonia in calves. It is from the same group of antibiotics as an old favourite Micolil and the newer product Draxxin. Zactran has a 10-day duration of activity from a single subcutaneous dose and gives much higher tissue concentrations of the drug in the lungs than its major competitors. In addition it is approximately 20% cheaper than Draxxin!

BAYCOX SHEEP

Bayer Animal Health have launched a new Coccidiostat for use in sheep. The product is an oral drench similar to the existing product that some of you will recognise and use, Vecoxan. However, Baycox has a longer duration of activity, kills more lifecycle stages of Coccidia and gives a greater reduction in faecal oocyst shedding. If you suffer with Coccidiosis in lambs on your farm this product may be worth consideration in the spring.

DAIRYCO MASTITIS PLAN

We are still offering a **FREE OF CHARGE** estimate of how much mastitis is currently costing your herd. Give us a ring, it will be much more than you think! Remember that an average case of mastitis costs £200. Can you afford not to!!!

VISIT DROVE
ONLINE

Further information, latest news, events and much, much more...

www.drovevets.co.uk

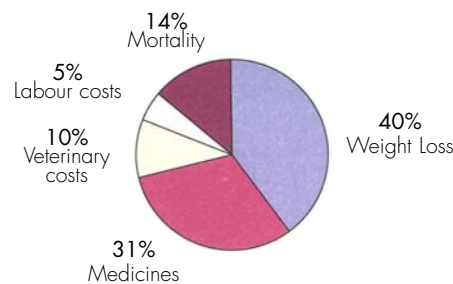


Calf Disease Focus Part 1

PNEUMONIA

Respiratory disease in cattle is a complex disease, resulting from a combination of management and environmental factors, calf susceptibility and infectious agents. In the majority of outbreaks viruses are the initiators. They damage the lungs and can cause severe disease on their own, but they also open up the respiratory tract to secondary bacterial attack which can lead to further extensive lung damage.

Respiratory disease costs the UK industry an estimated £80 million per year, with each case in beef suckler calves costing an average £82 per head and in dairy calves £43 per head. Typically most costs are due to the ongoing effects of lung damage on calf growth rates, although mortality can be very significant in some outbreaks.



IMPORTANT PNEUMONIA CONTROL POINTS

- **Nutrition** - good calf nutrition including adequate colostrum intake and stress free weaning.
- **Stress management** - avoid multiple stresses such as weaning, dehorning, castrating, and housing.
- **Housing** - must be well ventilated but draught free, well bedded with good drainage to reduce humidity.
- **Stocking Density** - ensure stocking rate is appropriate for air and pen space.
- **Mixing** - don't mix cattle of different ages, bought in and home reared cattle or sick and healthy cattle.
- **Other disease** - Immunosuppression by BVD virus increases pneumonia risk. Calves that scour are three times more likely to get pneumonia.

TREATMENT

- Detect cases of respiratory disease early.
- Give appropriate dose of antibiotics immediately.
 - Resflor - 2ml per 15kg under skin
 - Zactran 1ml per 25kg under skin
- Use anti-inflammatories (e.g. Metacam) to reduce fever, lung damage and give a better recovery. NB: Resflor contains an anti-inflammatory.
- Isolate all sick animals in a separate airspace and return recovered calves to their original group wherever possible.
- Where a proportion of calves are affected (e.g. 25%) consider treating the in-contact cattle as well.

VACCINATION

- Vaccines can be used to help control respiratory disease as part of a disease prevention programme.
- Vaccination must not be used as a 'quick fix', they will only be effective if environmental and management deficiencies are also addressed.
- Vaccination programmes should be completed in conjunction with your vet, ahead of the main risk period for respiratory disease on the farm.



TB Testing Rule Changes

DEFRA have announced that they will be changing the TB testing rules in England from 1st January 2010. In the South West and West Midlands regions the testing frequency interval will no longer be calculated on a parish basis, all holdings within a newly defined 'TB Zone' will be put on an annual testing interval. In addition, there will be a wide buffer zone of two yearly testing parishes around the periphery of the new zone.

This will mean that almost all herds in our practice area will now be moved onto annual testing in the New Year, with the remainder of clients being likely to fall within the two yearly buffer zone. There will be an increase in routine TB testing for the practice and also a

significant increase in pre-movement TB testing. We have increased our vet numbers to accommodate our increasing workload and do not foresee any problems handling the increased TB testing within our current staffing levels. However, it would be helpful if clients

can be as organised as possible planning and arranging pre-movement TB tests in advance of requirements. Dee will provide you with a quote for the cost of your pre-movement test when you ring to book it. **Please remember that pre-movement TB testing is not a last minute emergency procedure!!!**

The other significant rule change is that Inconclusive Reactors will only be subject to a single re-test from 1st January 2010. This will mean that any animals testing Inconclusive on two consecutive tests will be culled immediately rather than waiting 60 days for a third test. This change brings England into line with TB policy throughout the rest of Europe.

Coming Next Month...

Calf Disease Focus Part 2 - Neonatal Calf Scour



IS YOUR DOG LOSING ITS MARBLES?

Senility can be treated... please do not accept it is just old age!

Premature brain ageing in our pets is surprisingly common. Around half of dogs aged 11-16 years exhibit at least one sign of senility: **1.** Disturbance of sleep-wake cycle (restlessness at night) **2.** Aimless barking **3.** Loss of house training. **4.** Less desire to interact with owners or other dogs. **5.** Signs of disorientation, such as seeming lost in the house or garden.

All these signs of your "doty dog" are common and can in many cases be reduced with medication. This can give greater vitality and energy, improve memory and mental alertness and potentially extend the pet's life span.

Christmas really has come early...

Until the end of November we are offering a Free Senior Health Check and should your pet be diagnosed with a senility related or Urinary Incontinence condition, then you will be offered a month's FREE trial of medication for them.

Give your pet a Christmas present both of you will remember...

Is your dog losing its bounce?

Restore their vitality with a **FREE one month trial**

Simply book a FREE Senior Health Check by the end of November, presenting this voucher to qualify. You must be registered or register with us to take part in this offer. Terms and conditions apply. This offer is brought to you by Intervet/Schering Plough, manufacturers of Meloxicam. Legal category POM-V

Is your dog leaving puddles or wetting the bed?

There may be a solution... your don't have to grin and bear it! Let us help you, to help them...

Simply book a FREE Senior Health Check by the end of November, presenting this voucher to qualify.

You must be registered or register with us to take part in this offer. Terms and conditions apply. This offer is brought to you by Intervet/Schering Plough, manufacturers of Incurin. Legal category POM-V



24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE.
All Sunday and Emergency consults by appointment at The Drove Veterinary Hospital
Telephone (01793) 522483.
www.drovevets.co.uk

Offering all our clients a caring service locally

- Abbeymeads Veterinary Surgery Abbeymeads Village Centre, Elstree Way 728728
- County Road Veterinary Surgery 27 County Road, Swindon S23705
- The Drove Veterinary Hospital 252 Croft Road, Old town, Swindon S22483
- Lambourn Surgery 49 High Street, Lambourn O1483 71505
- Marlborough Veterinary Surgery 51 London Road, Marlborough O1672 512043
- Moredon Veterinary Surgery 10 Moredon Road, Swindon S14461
- Pewsey Veterinary Surgery 14 River Street, Pewsey O1672 562253
- Stratton Veterinary Surgery Pets at Home, Oxford Road, Swindon S21821
- Taw Hill Veterinary Surgery 26 Aiken Road, Taw Hill, Swindon 725514
- Wootton Bassett Veterinary Surgery 12 Bath Road, Wootton Bassett 852466

If you have any further questions, or would like to discuss the use of our services then please do not hesitate to contact us at the farm office: 01793 501499.

Or visit our website at: www.drovevets.co.uk.

DROVE FARM TEAM:

Rupert Hibberd
Peter May
Kate Brodie
Chris Price
Janet Blikmans
Alex McPherson
Mel Speechley
Amy Gillespie

We provide all of our clients with a full and dedicated farm animal veterinary emergency service 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. We have a direct farm office telephone line which is (01793) 501499. This number is only operational during working hours. Out of office hours call 01793 522483.

DROVE VETERINARY HOSPITAL
NOVEMBER 2009

