

Farm Veterinary Solutions

Newsletter Winter 2017

A member of



Farm

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Stepping into Winter.

With November now upon us we have been scanning the suckler cows, reviewing the flock health plans and discussing the housing needs of your stock. The mild weather has extended the grazing period with a late flush of grass and as a result we have had a surge of Caesareans on autumn calving cows, even including Mike's small herd!

He spent an afternoon in his cow shed with his wife! Together they had to do a Caesar on one of his own fat red polls to deliver a big bull calf! Whilst Mike was away, another of his fat cows was ably calved by one of our farming client's sons, Freddie Knight. Thanks Freddie, we hoped you billed Mike for your time!





NEW PRACTICE IT SYSTEM

We have been using our existing veterinary IT system for over 10 years, but as the practice continues to grow it is struggling to keep up. We use the system to manage all our appointments, drug orders, stock control, staff rota, ordering etc

We have decided to move across to a new, more modern system which should streamline some of our business processes and make everything easier in the long run! In the future our vets will be able to access client's records from their phone, and on farm they can order drugs and a whole lot more!

Hopefully the transition to the new software will be seamless but please bear with us in case there are any slight difficulties in the early days!



TB

A new change due from November is that all IRs in the High Risk Area (HRA) and Edge Area (and in TB breakdown herds in the Low Risk Area) that have a negative result on re-testing will be restricted for the rest of their life to the holding in which they were found.

In other words they cannot be sold to anyone else and only go direct to slaughter. The proviso is that if you do want to sell an IR animal it has to have a private gamma interferon test at the owners expense. If this is positive the herd is deemed to be a reactor herd and placed under restriction until such time as it achieves two clear 60 day tests and restrictions lifted.

The government tender period has been extended until March 2019 so we will continue to manage the testing until then. Our TB work load is still ever increasing with three neighbouring practices stopping testing. Luckily, we have not had too many new outbreaks, as the contiguous farm testing does put an added burden on the practice. We have also had an increase in new farm clientele so we are actively recruiting another TB tester to help our existing farm team.

The mundane nature of testing was alleviated recently where the farmer drove his cattle in by horse back! Worked very effectively too! Next time a helicopter?



THE INTERFERON-GAMMA BLOOD TEST (IFNG)

APHA have been using the interferon-gamma blood test (IFNG) as a diagnostic test for TB for many years. Since April 2016 IFNG has been available for use by private vets. The good news is that the cost of the privately funded interferon-gamma (IFNG) blood tests has reduced as of 1 October 2017.

This facility will allow private vets, with prior APHA approval, to submit blood samples to the APHA laboratory at the owner's expense and in a limited number of scenarios.

What is a IFNG blood test?

The interferon-gamma test (IFNG or 'gamma' test for short) is a supplementary blood test used alongside the tuberculin skin test to maximise the probability of detecting TB-infected animals in herds affected by TB breakdowns.

Who is eligible for the IFNG blood test?

Cattle which are eligible for private IFNG testing include the following:-

- Supplementary pre- or post-movement testing of pedigree animals that are not subject to, or have passed, a compulsory skin test.
- More sensitive TB screening of animals joining high-value herds, including pedigree bulls entering semen collection centres.
- As a marketing tool to add value to herd/animals intended for sale.
- Ad hoc testing following a negative routine or tracing skin test.
- Rapid retesting of inconclusive skin test reactors where no government-funded IFNG blood test is planned.

Cattle which are NOT eligible for private IFNG testing include the following:

- Cattle from herds under TB restriction and undergoing government IFNG testing.
- Skin test-positive (reactor) and other cattle awaiting slaughter for TB control purposes.
- Animals in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland at the time of testing.
- Herds under restrictions for overdue tuberculin skin tests.
- Cattle that are under six months of age.

IFNG test cost (from October 2017 to March 2018)

It will depend on which format of the IFNG test should be used. (High Specificity or High Sensitivity) and the number of animals tested (single, 5+ or 10+). APHA will decide which tests will be carried out and give the authorisation to your private vet.

Cost per test for:	Single test	5+ tests	10+ tests
High Specificity Test	£22.20	£18	£17
High Sensitivity Test	£16.20	£13	£12

If you are interested please contact us and let us know which animals you want to test and why.

Our vets will contact the APHA local office to check if it is possible to test those animals and which tests must to be carried out. We can then inform you if it is possible to do the IFNG test and which format of the IFNG test should be used.

We can only test on Wednesdays, morning visits are preferable.
Please contact the practice on 0166 4567481 for more details.



VACCINATION - A KEY TOOL FOR CONTROL OF BOVINE RESPIRATORY DISEASE

Bovine Respiratory Disease (BRD) represents a significant threat to calf health, welfare and farm profitability on both beef and dairy farms. Developing a plan to control this costly but common disease is critical. Vaccination can be a valuable tool in preventing disease alongside good husbandry practices.

BRD is not a simple problem, and results from a complex interaction between infectious agents, including viruses and bacteria, and a range of environmental and management factors. Poor conditions and stress factors compromise the calf's resilience to respiratory disease, allowing viruses and bacteria to take hold, leading to outbreaks of disease.

A wide range of organisms can cause respiratory disease. Viruses are frequently the initial invaders: the lung damage and impaired immunity they produce allows bacterial infections to gain a hold, resulting in severe disease.

Viruses including respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), parainfluenza 3 virus (PI-3), bovine viral diarrhoea virus (BVDV) and bovine herpes virus 1 (BHV-1), are commonly implicated in outbreaks of BRD. Mannheimia haemolytica, is a common secondary bacterial invader. Multivalent vaccines, containing several pathogens can therefore provide a useful tool in the control of disease.

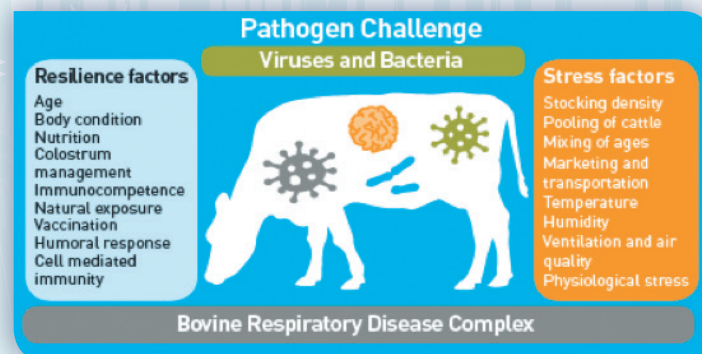
Effective pneumonia treatment relies on early identification of affected individuals, to reduce the severity and spread of disease. Initial signs include:

- Fever
- Dullness
- Reduced feed intake
- Watery discharge from the nose and eyes
- Increased respiratory rate and coughing

This is the best time to temperature check your animals and if fever is present, treat with anti-inflammatory alongside antibiotics.

Frequently we see animals later in the course of disease with pus-like nasal discharge and severe chronic respiratory changes, these animals often respond poorly to treatment and may fail to grow or die.

The immediate cost of a BRD outbreak includes high losses and vet/medicine costs, but the longer term effects can have just as much impact on farm profitability. The total cost to the UK cattle industry is estimated at £80 million per year¹.



Research has shown even mildly affected dairy heifers may take up to an additional 14 days to reach service weight, while average daily live weight gains in growing beef cattle can be reduced by up to 0.2kg/day. Even recovered animals will often be less productive, pushing up the cost of production across the group.

The risk of BRD can never be completely overcome. Record keeping and analysis is key to identifying trends in disease associated with the seasons or other management practices. Recording and reviewing the number of cases, treatments and outcomes can provide valuable information when developing control and treatment protocols.

Getting the most out of vaccination

Prevention is better – and certainly cheaper - than cure.

Correct vaccination of young and growing animals is a cost-effective method to help prevent BRD. Selecting a vaccine which contains relevant bacteria and viruses, and observing best practice when storing and using vaccines will optimise the protection they provide.

Our top tips for successful BRD prevention include...

- **Calf health status:** Resilience to disease and vaccine efficacy will be increased if animals are healthy and receiving good nutrition. For example cold stress has a major negative impact on young calves. If animals are under stress due to poor nutrition or management their immune response to vaccines will always be reduced with disappointing results. Assessing and addressing issues such as poor ventilation and air quality, excessive moisture and humidity, overcrowding, and mixing of ages/groups is key to pneumonia control, and will allow vaccines to work more effectively. We can help with farm visits and advice on environment, husbandry and feeding protocols to ensure you get the best value from your vaccines.
- **Vaccine selection:** A vaccine protocol should be developed with us and take into account the specific features and risks on your farm such as multi-source purchasing. Diagnostic test results are invaluable when developing a vaccination plan so please contact us early for testing/post-mortem if outbreaks or losses occur.
- **Plan ahead:** Wherever possible, ensure that calves are fully vaccinated head of periods of high BRD risk.
- **Storage and handling:** Ensure vaccines are stored and handled according to the instructions on the datasheet and that refrigerators are operating at the correct temperature.
- **Timing:** Follow the protocols, ensuring the interval between vaccines in the primary course and any subsequent boosters is observed.
- **Accurate dosing:** Use an appropriate injector and calibrate equipment before use to check that the correct dose is being delivered to each animal; underdosing will affect the efficacy of vaccines. Ensure the correct route of administration is used (intramuscular or subcutaneous) according to the manufacturer's instructions.

A new range of vaccines has been launched, BOVALTO® RESPI 3 and RESPI 4, to help dairy and beef farmers manage BRD.

BOVALTO RESPI 3 contains clinically relevant strains of key BRD pathogens PI-3, RSV and Mannheimia haemolytica serotype A1. BOVALTO RESPI 4 contains a unique combination of these three pathogens along with BVDV.

Please contact us at the Melton branch on 01664 567481 for further information.

¹BARRET D.C., (2000) Veterinary Record 146, 545-550



Fever Tags

With autumn well and truly upon us pneumonia prevention should be at the forefront of our minds. Prevention is undoubtedly better than a cure and there are multiple vaccinations on the market now, through which we can hopefully design a protective strategy for individual farms. However there will always be challenges including housing limitations, stocking levels, stressors and external factors like weather changes that will result in disease outbreaks. Prompt treatment of disease will impact on the numbers of animals affected as well as the severity of disease and negative effects on growth rates etc.

Cattle fever is typically the first sign of Bovine Respiratory Disease (BRD), manifesting 24-72 hours before visual signs, depressed appetite and dehydration become apparent. By continuously monitoring your cattle's temperature in an undisturbed state, you can create a straight forward and uncomplicated process to identify challenged cattle or cattle that require further investigation.

Fever tags are an increasingly popular new detection method, used in both beef and dairy units. They are placed in the calf's ear and continuously monitor temperature changes.

The integrated software learns the typical temperature activity of the animal and only alarms if the temperature remains high over a six-hour period and has proven 95% accurate in research trials.

The animal's temperature will go up and down, but will not drop below 39.7C if it has a respiratory infection.

Once the cow or calf has had a high temperature for six hours, a light flashes on the tag to alert the farmer. The flashing light continues for six hours, after which point the device reverts to monitoring the temperature every 15 minutes.

However, if the temperature remains above 39.7C, the tag will continue flashing, so even if it first begins flashing just after the final evening checks, it will still be flashing the next morning if the temperature has remained high.

These innovative tags have been used with great success, and their accurate and prompt detection of fever allows targeted treatment to be instituted before an outbreak takes hold.

For further information please contact Harriet at the practice.



Aborting Spring Born Heifers

Avoiding Unwanted Caesareans and Difficult Calvings...

One issue we are commonly called to deal with is heifers calving too young because they have accidentally been bred. It is also an area we are often asked for advice on how to abort these heifers should we know they have been running with a bull. This article aims to highlight the do's and don'ts of dealing with these heifers.

Misalliance

Best practice is to avoid young heifers being bred in the first place. However accidents happen and should heifers calve young we often find they need caesareans or the calving's are very difficult and can end up with dead calves and damage to the heifer. So, should you suspect this has happened it is often better to abort the heifers than take them to term.

The best time to do this is less than 3 months of age as the foetus is likely to be resorbed and the heifer should cycle back round without many problems. It is required to wait 7-10 days after they have been separated from any bulls as this is the minimum time after service that it will work.

They can be aborted later than 3 months but then there is a higher chance (30-75%) of complications such as metritis, retained cleansings or mummified foetuses.

If a heifer is heavy in calf, it would be worth a discussion with a vet to weigh up the pros and cons at this late stage.

Should I Scan First?

Scanning animals can be done from 30 days onwards (although we usually prefer from 6 weeks) and can help target animals that do or don't need treatment.

Injecting a heifer that is not in calf should not cause any untoward effects apart from manipulating their reproductive cycle.

Scanning 6 weeks after injection may be more useful to confirm that the therapy has worked. If it hasn't then it can be repeated at this stage.



Misalliance (abortion) Protocols

Animals less than 3 months in calf:

- 2ml Prostaglandin (Prellim or Estrumate) intramuscular.
- A single dose should suffice but a second dose can be given 24 hours later.

Animals more than 3 months in calf:

- 2ml Prostaglandin (Prellim or Estrumate) intramuscular
- 10ml of Corticosteroid (Rapidexon) intramuscular

Heifers can come bulling from as young as 4 months old and young bulls can be fertile from 8 months



JOHNE'S DISEASE IN SHEEP

Whilst Johne's disease is more commonly seen and diagnosed in cattle, the disease can also affect sheep and goats and be transmitted between the species. It is caused by the same bacteria, *Mycobacterium avium* paratuberculosis (MAP) which is spread in faeces from individual to individual and can also be transferred through colostrum and milk. It can survive for many months in the environment.

Young lambs and kids are most susceptible to infection and like cattle, it takes a number of years for clinical signs to be seen. Loss of condition is the main sign of disease and thin older ewes or ewes that fail to gain weight post weaning, despite good grass would be key cohorts to further investigate and identify if Johne's disease is an issue. Diagnosis is based on a blood test or faecal sample.

Other possible causes of weight loss include internal parasites, Maedi Visna and Jaagsiekte disease and it would be important to also exclude these as possible causes of ill thrift.

To help control Johne's disease within your flock, it is best not to graze sheep and goats with cattle.

Johne's positive ewes should be culled as soon as possible and their offspring not kept as breeding replacements. Good biosecurity, especially with regards to clean water troughs and mains water supply will help reduce disease transmission. As lambs and kids are most susceptible, weaning onto land that hasn't been grazed by adult sheep or goats will help reduce the risk of infection.



SMALLHOLDERS CLUB MEETING

**We held our 2nd Smallholders Club meeting on
Wednesday 6th September
at the Market Harborough Branch.**

Kat Baxter, a Veterinary Advisor from MSD along with our vet Rebecca, provided a very informative evening discussing how best to prepare for tupping time and additional ways in which to help tighten your lambing period. It was great to catch up with members again and we hope everyone found it an interesting evening.

Our next meeting will be held in December and focus on how to deal with abortion cases in your livestock. Keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for event details.

**If you would like to find out more about the Smallholders Club
and what membership entails,
please contact Robyn at the Melton Branch on
01664 567481 or email robyn@rutlandvets.co.uk**

HELIVET

The Farm Vet Solutions helicopter G-VETT is now tootling about again after nearly a year out of service when the hangar she was in blew over with her inside! She has had a new paint job and is allowing us to get to calls quicker and further afield. Both Mossy and Mike fly weather permitting however between November and January we send her to a flying school as the weather over these months is too inclement. With the busy Spring she will be put back to work!



PRODUCT NEWS

Bovidec BVD Vaccine

Unfortunately we have been informed that Elanco have now discontinued the production of Bovidec BVD vaccine, due to their own commercial reasons. Bovidec has been our inactivated BVD vaccine of choice for the last few years so many of you will be familiar with using it on an annual basis to protect your cows and their pregnancies. It is estimated that stocks of the last batch will have been used by the new-year so please contact us for advice and to discuss your future BVD vaccination and monitoring plans.

Bovela (live BVD vaccine), which many of you are using, had already become the UK's leading brand and will be our product of choice moving forwards. The vaccine is highly effective at controlling clinical signs of BVD and is licensed to provide a full

12 months foetal protection from a single dose primary course and annual boosters. This foetal protection is key as in many cases it is the resulting PI calves from a challenge during pregnancy that are the continuing source of infection within a herd. Bovela vaccination of all breeding females coupled with a youngstock monitoring programme is the most effective way of keeping your herds free from the effects of BVD.

SQP DAYS

Paul Uglow our SQP from Norbrook will be at the Melton Market on Tuesday 5th December and at the Market Harborough Branch on Thursday 7th (10am to 2pm). Come and discuss your parasite treatments and claim your free gift.





STAFF NEWS



Earlier this year Alvaro completed the XLVets Course on Ultrasound in Bovine Fertility Visits. It was a two days course which took place by kind permission of John and Andy Hill at Sludge Hall Farm, one of the biggest dairy farms in the Midlands. It combined both the theoretical and practical parts of scanning. Alvaro improved his knowledge and skills on bovine reproduction so he will now be scanning suckler herds. This can be combined with your TB tests, so please contact the practice if you want to get booked in.

NEW STAFF



Meet **Zoe Hebblethwaite** who joined the vet team in the summer.

Zoe, please introduce yourself: I grew up in Portsmouth and graduated from Bristol Vet School this summer. I have always wanted to be a mixed animal vet and have had experience working with a variety of species including water buffalo.

What made you want to work for Farm Vet Solutions? The mixed animal position appealed to me and I wanted to work in a forward think progressive team like FVS and am happy to be a part of it.

Sparetime? I enjoy running and adventure sports and have completed both half marathons and tough mudders. I also enjoy travelling.

Where have you been? - South Africa, Australia, India and Fiji and looking forward to going to New Zealand in the future.

Tea or Coffee? Both

Beer or Wine? Both, but not at the same time!!

Rugby or Football? Rugby

Interesting Fact: I have won a national title for synchronised swimming!

VPS PRODUCTS WINTER HOUSING DEALS 2017

Deals	Details/Uses	Withdrawal (Guide Only)	Dose	Pack Sizes	Price Excl. Vat)
 <small>Pour-On for Cattle</small>	Ivermectin pour on for control of adult and inhibited larval stage roundworms, mange mites and sucking lice in cattle	Cattle Meat 28days Milk >60days	1ml/10kg	2.5Litre	£26
 <small>Single POUR ON SOLUTION for Beef and Dairy Cattle</small>	Eprinomectin pour-on for control of adult and inhibited larval stage roundworms, mites and sucking lice in cattle	Cattle Meat 10days Milk 0Hours	1ml/10kg	2.5Litre 5Litre	£165 £249
	Ivermectin injection for control of adult and inhibited larval stage roundworms, mange mites and sucking lice in cattle, sheep and pigs	Cattle Meat 49days Milk >60days Sheep Meat 42days	1ml/50kg	50ml 300ml 750ml	£15 £32 £55
 <small>Pour-On</small>	Ivermectin + Closantel pour-on for control of adult and inhibited larval stage roundworms, mange mites and lice, late immature and adult liver fluke in cattle	Cattle Meat 28days Milk Do not use (>150 days)	1ml/10kg	1Litre 2.5Litre 4Litre 6Litre	£115 £205 £305 £440
 <small>SOLUTION FOR INJECTION FOR CATTLE & SHEEP</small>	Ivermectin + Closantel injection for control of adult and inhibited larval stage roundworms, mange mites and lice, late immature and adult liver fluke in cattle and sheep	Cattle Meat 49days Milk Do not use Sheep Meat 28days	1ml/25kg	250ml 2x 500ml	£49 £170
Fasinex 240	Triclabendazole oral drench for control of early immature to adult fluke in cattle	Cattle Meat 52days Milk 50days	5ml/100kg	2.2Litre 5Litre	£165 £305
Zanil	Oxyclozanide oral drench for cattle and sheep for control of adult liver fluke.	Cattle Meat 28days Milk 72hours	Cattle 3ml/10kg	5Litre	£76
 <small>0.08% w/v Drench Oral Solution</small>	Ivermectin drench for control of adult and inhibited larval stage roundworms and external parasites in sheep	Sheep Meat 14days	2.5ml/10kg	2.5Litre 5Litre 2x 5Litre	£23 £43 £81
 <small>Fluke Drench for Sheep</small>	Triclabendazole drench for control of early immature to adult liver fluke in sheep	Sheep Meat 56days	1ml/5kg	2.5Litre 5Litre	£39 £68
 <small>Oral Suspension for Sheep</small>	Closantel drench for control of late immature and adult liver fluke and <i>Haemonchus</i> ("barber's pole" worm) in sheep (Flukiver alternative)	Sheep Meat 42days	1ml/5kg	1Litre 2.5Litre 5Litre	£34 £64 £99
Rotavec Corona	Vaccine for cattle in late pregnancy to improve colostral antibody levels against common causes of calf scour	Cattle Meat 0days Milk 0days	2ml s/c	10ml 40ml	£46 £162



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