



STATION ROAD, SETTLE, BD24 9AA
MAIN STREET, HIGH BENTHAM, LA2 7LE
GISEBURN AUCTION MART, BE7 4EG



www.daleheadvetgroup.co.uk Tel: (01729) 823538 info@daleheadvetgroup.co.uk

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Calf Pneumonia Vaccination

Pneumonia is one of the major causes of economic loss to the cattle industry—an outbreak of pneumonia easily costing well over £100 per affected animal. In the short term, pneumonia leads to decreased liveweight gains, higher levels of mortality and increased veterinary and labour costs. The long term impact can be equally damaging, as the inevitable lung damage that occurs in those that apparently recover leads to poorer growth rates and delayed finishing times. Even calves which appear to have relatively mild respiratory symptoms such as a cough or runny nose are likely to suffer from reduced performance longer term.

As with many diseases, prevention is better than cure and every effort should be made to prevent pneumonia from occurring rather than having to treat it once it occurs. While good housing and husbandry are essential to avoid pneumonia, vaccination is also an important part of any control programme.

- **Rispoval 4**

Rispoval 4 is a vaccine giving protection against 3 of the most common viruses that cause pneumonia in calves; RSV, IBR and PI3, as well as protecting against the immunosuppressive effects of BVD virus. In calves over 3 months of age, 2 doses of vaccine are required 3-4 weeks apart, the full immunity developing approximately 2 weeks after the second injection. **This vaccine is ideally suited to spring born suckler calves before housing in the autumn.**

- **Rispoval Intranasal**

Rispoval Intranasal is a single dose vaccine administered up the nose to calves over 9 days of age giving protection against the 2 most common pneumonia causing viruses of young calves, RSV and PI3. It is ideally suited for young suckler calves at housing or for dairy calves on farms where respiratory disease is seen in calves less than 1 month of age.

- **Bovipast RSP**

As well as protecting against RSV and PI3, Bovipast also protects against the most common bacterial cause of pneumonia in young calves, Pasteurella Haemolytica. Vaccination consists of 2 injections, approximately 4 weeks apart with the first dose being given from 2 weeks of age.

To find out more about the various vaccination options available to you, please speak to one of the vets on 01729 823538

Pre-Breeding Ram MOTs

Studies have shown that 10-15% of rams inspected are either infertile or sub-fertile and even if several rams are run with a group of ewes, one sub-fertile ram will result in a more spread out lambing time and probably a lighter lamb crop as well as more barren ewes. A physical inspection of rams and, if necessary, having a semen sample tested well before tupping time will help to pick out suspect rams and either allow time to correct problems or find a replacement tup.

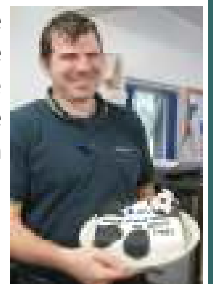
We are able to carry out a pre-breeding examination of all your tups on farm, collecting and evaluating semen samples if necessary or, for small numbers, tups can be brought to the surgery by appointment.

A pre-breeding examination of your tups, charged on an hourly rate, is very good value for money and extremely cost effective!



Our congratulations go to Ian Illingworth who passed his Diploma of Bovine Reproduction in September, becoming part of a select group of people (approximately twenty in the UK) to hold both this qualification and the Certificate of Cattle Health and Production. He managed all of this in spite of having to leave the final examination early because his wife was having an emergency caesarean with their first child! Fortunately for Ian, his hard work paid off and he still managed to be at Katie's side to welcome their son, Jack, into the world.

Well done Ian!



Bull Breeding Examinations

Efficient beef production is dependent on compact breeding periods of less than 10 weeks with 65% of females calving within the first 21 days of this period and less than 5% barren cows.

For these to be realistic targets, it is obvious that the fertility of the bull has to be optimal.

Poorly performing bulls can be difficult to identify if multiple sires are used - 80% of cows in these systems can be served by two or more bulls at each oestrous. Trying to identify individual problem bulls promptly after the start of the breeding period can therefore be very difficult.

It is rare that a bull is totally infertile (sterile), but sub-fertility is far more common with 20-25% of breeding bulls being sub fertile. This obviously has significant financial implications for the herd; longer calving periods (with the additional consequence of increased calf losses), fewer calves produced, etc. This can add up to £3.20 per day for each cow's delayed conception.

One definition of a bull of satisfactory fertility is that if it is running with a group of 50 clean, cycling cows, it is capable of achieving pregnancy rates of at least 60% in 3 weeks and at least 90% in 9 weeks.



The bull breeding examination we offer fulfils a vital role in helping to identify problem bulls and prevent economic losses. We can examine bulls pre-service, post purchase or pre-sale and have imported a specialist piece of equipment from the USA to enable us to collect and analyse bull semen samples in a humane and efficient way.

There are significant price reductions for testing more than one bull at the same time. The cost benefits of bull testing are clear, with it amounting to the same as five cows taking a week longer to conceive or a tenth of the price of one replacement cow.

Now is the
**Time to
Recheck
the Bull Pen**

Are the bulls **fertile**?

Are the bulls **sound**?

Are the bulls **interested**?

Please contact the practice on 01729 823538 if you would like to discuss this further.

A Reminder—Parcels for Gisburn Auction Market

- Orders need to be placed before 3.30pm on the Wednesday before as Thursday mornings can be hectic.
- Please remember to collect your parcels from the Gisburn office by 1pm at the latest.

Ubro (Leo) Yellow Tubes

We are pleased to announce that, after being unavailable for most of the year, Ubro Yellow tubes are now back in stock. The expiry date on the tubes we currently have in stock is end of April 2015. While we have not been told that there are likely to be any future supply problems.....you never know!



TB Testing

DEFRA have announced a change in TB testing policy in 4 yearly testing parishes for routine herd tests (RHT).

Whereas previously all adult cows and breeding bulls needed testing plus any animals purchased since the last test, now the new regulations require all female youngstock over 6 weeks of age (homebred or purchased) as well as adult cows and breeding bulls to be tested.

This could make a big difference to how many animals need testing so if you have a test due this winter it would be well worthwhile planning ahead as to how you are going to restrain and handle these additional youngstock for testing.

Sadly we have to report the death of John Howard Jaggar who worked the whole of his professional life in the practice until retirement in the early 1990s when he moved to the Lake District. John spent most of his career working from the branch surgery attached to his house on Robin Lane in Bentham. We would like to send our condolences to his friends and family.

Check out our website
www.daleheadvetgroup.co.uk
for factsheets, presentations, staff profiles, special offers and much more!

