



Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis (IBR)

IBR is a highly contagious viral disease of cattle. The disease is spread by the aerosol route (one cow breathing in virus particles which have been breathed out by another carrier or infected animal). The peak seasonal incidence of IBR therefore is after housing particularly in poorly ventilated buildings with high humidity. In previously unexposed animals, IBR can cause severe inflammation of the upper respiratory tract with coughing, inflamed runny eyes, nasal discharge, depression and loss of appetite.

Affected animals can run very high temperatures with a loss of milk production, impaired fertility and occasional abortions also seen.

Once an animal recovers from the infection it will carry the virus for life. These animals usually show no symptoms for the majority of the time, their immune system keeps the virus in check. However at times when their immunity dips, the virus can be shed again. This drop in immunity is usually stress related (around calving, management changes etc) and at these times, these carriers are capable of infecting other non-immune animals around them. In herds where a large number of cows have already been exposed to the infection (and therefore have developed immunity) the most dramatic signs are often seen in newly calved heifers and naïve cows entering the herd. These animals can run high temperatures and be off colour without necessarily showing any obvious respiratory symptoms.

IBR is a viral disease and therefore antibiotics have no effect against it (just like colds and flu in humans). Antibiotics can be used however to reduce the effects of secondary bacterial infections. Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs such as Finadyne or Metacam may be used to rapidly reduce the high temperatures and discomfort involved and this can speed up the return to normal appetite and milk production. Dairy herds which have not previously been vaccinated against IBR can have their status assessed by testing a bulk milk sample for antibody levels to the disease. This will give you an indication of the level of previous exposure and immunity in your herd and whether you are likely to have a number of animals that are capable of shedding the virus when stressed.

This test can be carried out free of charge courtesy of the MSD drug company testing scheme, and should be monitored on a regular basis. The IBR status of dairy young stock and suckler herds can be assessed by testing 6-10 blood samples for antibody levels.

Any vaccination programme should be tailored to individual herds. There are two main types of vaccine available : a live vaccine and a killed (inactivated) vaccine. The initial course is a single dose for the live vaccine and two injections for the killed. Boosters should be given 6 monthly or 12 monthly, depending on the vaccine used.

The most appropriate vaccine to use will depend on the management and disease status of the herd. Advice has to be based on whether the herd is closed or replacements bought in and whether the herd is naïve or has a level of previous infection.

If antibody levels are high (a high level of previous infection) there will be a number of animals that are potential shedders of the virus.

To find out the IBR status of your herd or to discuss which vaccination programme would be the most appropriate for you, please ring us on 01729 823538 and chat to one of our farm vets.

HERD HEALTH PLANS

If you are getting yourself ready for your farm assurance visit, don't forget to update your herd health plan. We have the latest forms and can arrange for a mobility score visit and a vet visit to finalise the paper work. We need approximately two weeks notice.

Give us a call on 01729 823538 or drop us an email on: info@daleheadvetgroup.co.uk marking it clearly **Herd Health Plan** in the subject line.

PRODUCT NEWS

Ubro Red Dry Cow tubes

After several months of being unavailable from the manufacturers Ubro Red tubes are now back in stock, available either in boxes of 20 tubes or herd packs of 120 tubes. Ubro Red tubes can be used up to 28 days before calving so are useful for cows with a short dry period.

We still have Ubro Yellow Milking Cow tubes in stock.



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



STATION ROAD, SETTLE, BD24 9AA
MAIN STREET, HIGH BENTHAM, LA2 7LE
GISEBURN AUCTION MART, BB7 4EE



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NEWSLETTER November 2014

Correct use of vaccines

A recent survey of vaccine usage in farm animals found that only 30% of products were being used correctly in accordance with data sheet recommendations. Among the issues highlighted were:

- * Incorrect storage of vaccines (ie not refrigerated prior to use)
- * Incorrect dose rate (ie 2mls being given rather than 4mls) or an automatic injector gun being incorrectly calibrated
- * Incorrect route of administration (ie under the skin when should be given into the muscle)
- * Incorrect interval between doses (ie too much time between 1st and 2nd dose of a primary vaccination course) or the wrong interval between boosters
- * Incorrect timings of vaccinations such as animals being vaccinated when too young before the immune system has fully developed (ie some calf pneumonia vaccines) or too close to or too far from calving/lambing (ie Rotavec Corona or Heptavac P)



To gain the best response and benefit from any vaccine it is important to use the product as instructed in the data sheet. If you have any queries, please speak to one of the vets on 01729 823538

What's next for the beef herd? High tech and low tech solutions



Next summer's replacement bulling heifers need some thought around this time of year. We have, at the surgery, a pelvimeter which can take a measurement of the pelvis at 12 months old. This gives a good indication of the size of calf the cow will be able to pass unaided allowing decisions to be made on whether or not to bull a heifer with a smaller pelvis. You will also get an idea of those that may need a caesarean section and the level of observation required around calving. Bulling the heifers one to two months before the main herd allows them to recover and mature enough to fit in with the calving pattern in the following year.

The stock bull used for the rest of the herd may not be suitable for the heifers. Artificial insemination with a proven easy calving bull will help prevent problems and speed integration into the herd. The use of top quality proven bulls allows a targeted approach in specific animals, whether this is for better carcass conformation (at £30 benefit per animal between average and top 5% bulls), easier calving or maternal traits for those producing replacement animals.

An easy low cost job done at this time of year is clipping out the backs of young stock and cows alike. A 15cm/5 inch strip up the backs of weaned animals helps prevent the sweating and chilling cycle seen in housed animals. This helps prevent pneumonia and as a result allow a better growth rate. Clipping the mums of suckler calves also helps to reduce the moisture content in the sheds, reducing the survival time of pneumonia bugs in the air.



If you would like to discuss estimated breeding values of AI bulls, synchronisation programmes for heifers or ventilation and moisture in housing please contact one of the farm vets on 01729 823538

Liver Fluke Treatments

Although we have had a relatively dry summer, the mild damper conditions in autumn have resulted in an increased risk of liver fluke infestation. Many lamb livers are currently being rejected at slaughterhouses due to fluke damage and the majority of dung samples from cattle that we are testing at the surgery are coming back positive for fluke eggs. The life cycle of the fluke inside the cow or sheep from being ingested to becoming a mature egg laying adult in the gall bladder takes approximately 3 months, the majority of damage being caused by the immature stages migrating through the liver.

The dilemma facing farmers when deciding whether or not to treat for fluke or which products to use is complicated by:

1. Long meat withdrawal periods when choosing a product to treat fattening lambs.
2. Milk withdrawal periods when choosing a product to treat dairy cows (there are NO products available with a nil milk withhold).

A brief summary of some of the main products for treating fluke, what they are effective against and their withdrawal periods is shown below, but if in doubt as to what course of action to take or whether a combined fluke and worm product should be used instead of a straight flukicide, please ring the surgery on 01729 823538 and speak to one of the farm vets.

Dairy Cattle

Albex 10% Oral Drench

- Effective against worms and adult liver fluke only.
- Licenced for use in milk cows, dry cows and heifers.
- 60 hours milk withdrawal.

Zanil Oral Drench

- Effective against adult liver fluke and is also the treatment of choice for rumen fluke.
- Licensed for use in milk cows, dry cows and heifers.
- 72 hour milk withdrawal.

Triclabendazole drenches (Endofluke, Fasinex 240)

- Effective against adult **AND** immature liver flukes.
- **NOT** licensed For use in lactating cows but can be used in dry cows and in-calf heifers if over 48 days off calving (Fasinex 240) or 45 days off calving (Endofluke)
- A 2 day milk withdrawal period after calving must be observed.

Trodax injection

- Effective against adult and immature flukes down to approximately 7 week old immatures.
- Trodax is **NOT** licensed for use in dairy cows including dry cows or in-calf heifers within 3 months of calving.

Closamectin Pour-on

- Effective against adult and immature flukes down to approximately 6 week old immatures as well as being effective against lungworm, gutworms, lice and mange.
- Closamectin Pour-on is **NOT** licensed for use in milk cows including dry cows or in-calf heifers during the second half of pregnancy.

Suckler Cows

Cows are extremely unlikely to pick up flukes off silage or from spring water supplies after housing therefore unless a major fluke problem is suspected, cattle can be left until any flukes they are carrying have been allowed to mature to a stage where they will be killed by the product used.

Triclabendazole drenches (Endofluke, Fasinex 240)

- Treat at least 2—3 weeks after housing

Closamectin Pour-on

- Treat at least 6 weeks after housing

Trodax injection

- Treat at least 8 weeks after housing

Ivomec Super injection

- Treat at least 8—10 weeks after housing

Albex drench

- Treat at least 12 weeks after housing

Fluke Treatments For Fattening Lambs and Ewes

Triclabendazole drenches (Endofluke, Triclafas, Fasinex) are effective against all stages of flukes and have a meat withdrawal period of 56 days although when combined with an Ivermectin wormer (Fasimec Duo) the withdrawal period is reduced to 27 days or with a Moxidectin wormer (Cydectin Triclamox) the withdrawal period is 31 days!

Closantel based treatments (Flukiver drench) or combined with a wormer (Supaverm drench or Closamectin injection) are effective against adult flukes and down to approximately 5 week old immatures with a meat withdrawal of:

- Flukiver— 42 days
- Supaverm—65 days
- Closamectin injection—28 days

Nitroxylin based treatments (Trodax) are effective against adult flukes and immatures down to approximately 7 week immatures with a meat withdrawal of 49 days.

Albex 2.5% is effective against gutworms and adult flukes with a 5 day meat withdrawal.

****Forthcoming Meetings****

BVD Control and Eradication

Thursday 20th November, 7.30pm
at North Ribblesdale Rugby Club

As part of a national campaign to raise awareness of BVD, we shall be holding a meeting to discuss the disease, its control and eradication.

Everyone attending will be given the opportunity of free testing to establish the BVD status of their herd.

Anyone wishing to attend either meeting please ring the practice and speak to Anne or Kate on 01729 823538 by Tuesday 18th November.

Refreshments will be provided.

****Forthcoming Meeting****

Heifer Rearing Meeting

Wednesday 10th December, 7.30pm
at North Ribblesdale Rugby Club

- 20% of dairy running costs are replacement young stock
- 14—18% of heifers DON'T survive to first lactation
- 50% of dairy cows don't survive past their third lactation
- Dropping the age at first calving by ONE MONTH equates to £3000!

Want to hear more? Ring the surgery and speak to Anne or Kate on 01729 823538 and book your place by Monday 8th December.

****Forthcoming Meeting****

AI Refresher Course—Friday 12th December 2014

We have organised an AI refresher course on a farm near Gisburn. There are one to two spare places available. The cost of the course is £80 per person. If you are interested, please contact the surgery on 01729 823538

****Forthcoming Meeting****

Lambing time Meeting—20th January 2015, Details to follow.

