



### Do you know the BVD status of *YOUR* herd?

Nationally the extent of losses due to BVD infection are considered to be *greater* than the combined losses attributable to Leptospirosis, IBR and Johnes disease with an estimated cost to the cattle industry of £40 per cow per year.

***Within our practice we have found that over half of dairy farms which we have tested are carrying the infection as well as 75% of suckler herds.***

BVD infection in the herd can result in fertility problems such as reduced conception rates, early embryonic losses, abortions and stillbirths. Perhaps even more significantly it suppresses the immune system of infected animals resulting in an increased incidence and severity of scours and pneumonias in calves and more severe outbreaks of disease such as IBR or Neospora in adult cattle.

There is currently a national campaign funded by the RDPE and supported by EBLEX and DairyCo to raise awareness and understanding of BVD. As part of this initiative, we have held two meetings for farmers during November to discuss the disease. One bit of good news is that by blood sampling a representative number of homebred youngstock for antibodies to BVD (which indicates exposure to infections) and by testing a bulk milk sample for the presence of virus in dairy herds, it is straightforward to ascertain whether there is active infection on the farm.

The other good news is that if infection is found to be present it is possible to eliminate the virus and protect the herd by a combination of:

- Identifying persistently infected (PI) animals
- Vaccination
- Testing bought in animals
- Maintaining secure farm boundaries

**Funding is currently available to subsidise the cost of the screening tests to determine the BVD status of your herd as well as a free on-farm consultation to discuss actions to be taken should the infection be found to be present.** This scheme runs until the end of February 2015.

**It would be beneficial for every herd to carry out a screening test even if you are already vaccinating.**

**To discuss the testing options available please speak to one of the farm vets on 01729 823538.**

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#### FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

##### Dairy Heifer Monitoring Package

10th December 2014  
North Ribblesdale Rugby Club  
7.30pm  
Ring 01729 823538  
to book your place.  
Further details overleaf

##### 3 Day Introductory AI Course

For more details  
please contact the surgery  
Ring 01729 823538  
to book your place  
Further details overleaf

##### Lambing Time Meeting

7.30pm 20th January 2015  
North Ribblesdale Rugby Club  
Our 'Lambing Time List'  
will be available with the  
usual discount for those  
who attend  
More details to follow



## Synchronisation Programme for AI in Cattle

In the practice we have an increasing number of clients utilising oestrus synchronisation for fixed time AI in both dairy and beef cattle. In dairy herds, groups of maiden heifers are most commonly synchronised, but on routine visits we regularly employ synchronisation on individual cows which have proved difficult to catch bulling by conventional methods.

### Choice of Programme

There are many and varied programmes available; the majority utilising a combination of progesterone treatments (Prids or CIDRs), prostaglandins (Estrumate) and GnRH (Receptal).

The protocol we commonly use for heifers and beef cows is as follows:

- ⇒ Day 0—Insert CIDR or Prid
- ⇒ Day 7—Inject prostaglandin
- ⇒ Day 8—Remove CIDR or Prid

Under this programme, heifers can be AI-ed 48 hours after Prid/CIDR removal and cows AI-ed 56 hours after removal. Alternatively, all animals can be AI-ed 48 and 72 hours after Prid/CIDR removal. The use of double AI has been shown to lead to a 5-10% increase in pregnancy rates compared to a single insemination.

In dairy cattle the 'ovsynch' method is often preferred:

- ⇒ Day 0—Inject GnRH
- ⇒ Day 7—Inject prostaglandin
- ⇒ Day 9—Inject again with GnRH

An insemination is then carried out 16-24 hours after the 2nd GnRH injection.

All programmes require frequent handling of cattle so good facilities are required. Pregnancy rates achieved with oestrus synchronisation are comparable with natural service and in some cases when utilised in groups of heifers, pregnancy rates above 90% have been achieved with one service. As has been said, there are many variations of the two described 'basic programmes'.

For more information, please speak to one of the farm vets on 01729 823538 or have a chat with them at your next routine visit.

### Dairy Heifer Monitoring Meeting—Wednesday 10th December—North Ribblesdale Rugby Club, 7.30pm

We will be discussing the results of a recent in-practice project and the financial benefits on farm. This has allowed us to develop a heifer monitoring package for the benefit of our clients.

**Worst case scenario?** Food and a pitch... **Best case?** Cheaper replacements with less health issues, more milk from long life cows, another income stream for the farm.

#### An offer you cannot refuse?

To book your place please ring the surgery and ask for Anne or Kate on 01729 823538 no later than 8th December

### AI Courses

We are being asked about running AI training for clients and are looking into holding a 3-day 'Introduction to AI' course. We have a number of people already interested but need more for the course to go ahead.

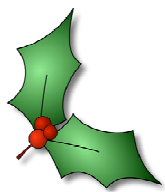
**If you would like to attend or find out more about this please contact the surgery on 01729 823538.** Once sufficient numbers have been confirmed we will arrange a suitable date and venue.

### \*\*\*\*\*A Reminder\*\*\*\*\*

#### Parcels for Gisburn Auction Mart

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.



*We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a healthy (and prosperous) 2015!*

Check out our website [www.daleheadvetgroup.co.uk](http://www.daleheadvetgroup.co.uk) for factsheets, presentations, staff profiles, special offers and much more!

