

FARM ANIMAL NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 2023

CALF PNEUMONIA PREVENTION AND VACCINATION OPTIONS IN SUCKLER HERDS



When we carry out antibiotic reviews for Farm Assurance in suckler herds we find that on many farms the biggest use of antibiotics is for treating calf pneumonia. Most farms will treat a number of calves for respiratory disease every year and deaths are not uncommon. As well as the immediate costs of antibiotic and anti-inflammatory treatments or dead calves there are other less obvious costs. Disease in suckled or reared beef calves can increase finishing times and reduce carcass quality. The peak risk period for respiratory disease in suckler herds is in the autumn after housing.

Good ventilation in buildings, avoiding over-stocking and reducing stress on calves by good calf management are all important considerations and vaccination can be an important part of any control plan for preventing calf pneumonia.

When choosing a vaccine we need to consider:

- What does the vaccine protect against? Do I know what 'bugs' are on my farm or do I need broad cover?
- From what age can the vaccine be used and how quickly will it provide protection?

VACCINE	PROTECTS AGAINST	MIN AGE	NO. INJECTIONS	ROUTE	BOOSTERS
Bovilis Intranasal RSP	P13, RSV	7 Days	1 vacc	Intranasal	Protection lasts 12 weeks
Rispoval Intranasal	PI3, RSV	9 days	1 vacc	Intranasal	Protection lasts 12 weeks
Rispoval 4	PI3, RSV, IBR, BVD	3 weeks old	2 vaccs 3-4 weeks apart	Intramuscular	Every 6 months
Bovipast RSP	PI3, RSV, Pasturellosis	2 weeks	2 vaccs 4 weeks apart	Under skin	2 weeks pre risk period
Bovalto Respi 3	PI3, RSV, BVD	2 weeks	2 vaccs 3 weeks apart	Under Skin	6 months duration of immunity
Bovalto Respi 4	PI3, RSV, BVD and Mannheimia Haemolytica	2 weeks	2 vaccs 3 weeks apart	Under Skin	6 months duration of immunity
Bovilis IBR Marker Live	IBR	2 weeks	1 vacc	Intranasal	Every 6 months
Bovilis IBR Marker Live	IBR	3 months old	1 vacc	Intramuscular	Every 6 months
Nasym	RSV	9 days	1ml intranasally followed by 2ml intramuscularly after 2 months.	Intranasal & Intramuscular	Every 6 months
	RSV	10 weeks	2 vacc 4 weeks apart	Intramuscular	Every 6 months

To discuss pneumonia vaccines please contact the surgery to speak to one of the farm vets.

POST-MOVEMENT TB TESTS

Earlier this year APHA ceased sending notifications to farmers for animals which have been purchased from a TB1 area and require a post movement TB test. This has unsurprisingly caught one or two people out and unfortunately we do not receive notification, unlike for Routine Herd TB Tests, on the system so are unable to pass on the information to our clients.

You must carry out post-movement tests on cattle between 60 and 120 days after their arrival at your premises.

There are [exemptions to post-movement testing cattle](#) in England, Scotland and Wales.

You must not move cattle that need a post-movement test from your premises until they receive a negative test result, unless they are:

- going directly to slaughter (within 120 days of the movement onto your premises)
- going to a slaughter gathering (a slaughter market or slaughter collection centre) (England and Wales)
- going to an approved finishing unit (AFU) (England and Wales)
- going to a licensed finishing unit (LFU) (England-only)
- going to an exempt finishing unit (EFU) (England-only)

moving from a certified quarantine unit under a [general licence to a non-exempt agricultural show](#) (Wales-only)

- under licence issued by an APHA inspector

You must post-movement test cattle first if slaughter is more than 120 days after arrival to the:

- LRA of England
- the annual surveillance testing parts of the edge area of England



LAB UPDATE



It has been a busy couple of months in the lab, the 'Great British Wet Summer' has not made it easy for getting grass in or sheep clipped, but it has created an ideal environment for worms to thrive. On the back of these conditions the majority of the worm egg counts we have done in house have been high.

Along with routine monitoring for worms we have also been testing muck samples after animals have been drenched (post drench tests) which has shown evidence of potential resistance on farms to certain groups of wormer (white, clear and yellow drenches). These require further investigation to determine the level of resistance and to get a

clear picture of which wormer groups are still working on those farm. But it does highlight the importance of post drench test.

Fluke egg counts have all been negative, showing no signs of mature fluke, however the wet weather over the last couple of months could change this. We will start testing on our monitor farms soon to identify the presence of new season fluke and the timings of fluke dosing this autumn, we will keep you updated on the results.

Lungworm tests have been done on muck samples from cattle, one of which was positive.

Sheep scab has also been diagnosed via skin scrapes in August.

QUARANTINE PROTOCOL FOR PURCHASED SHEEP

It's that time of year again when the majority of sheep farmers will begin purchasing sheep to add to their flock. Whether it's tups, gimmer lambs or drafts it is of the utmost importance to protect our existing flock by following quarantine and isolation procedures.

- Firstly isolate bought in animals for 28 days. The isolation area should be **at least 2 metres** away from other stock and in a different airspace (this means none of the air from the isolated animals will pass over the other animals on the holding).
- All sheep should have their feet examined and good practice is to footbath them 3 times at 5 day intervals during isolation. Consider a foot disinfection mat in the isolation unit.
- Any ill health or abnormalities during isolation should be investigated by seeking veterinary advice; respiratory signs, scour, lameness, swellings, skin disease, etc.
- Vaccinate to the same status as the flock.
- Keep on a fluke free pasture (no snail habitat) for 4 weeks after second fluke dose, or realistically as low risk as possible.
- Hold in a quarantine pasture or yard for 48 hours after worm treatment then turn onto a worm contaminated pasture (i.e. one that has grazed ewes and lambs during the summer).
- Blood sample purchased sheep for scab exposure.
- The animal can enter the flock after 28 days or 14 days after the last vaccine and whenever test results are all negative.



Step 1. Treatment

All sheep brought onto the farm should be treated with a product likely to remove all worms (resistant and susceptible). Resistance is reported in the UK with BZ (group 1-White), levamisole (group 2-Yellow) wormers, ML (group 3-Clear) wormers and now Zolvix (Group 4-Orange) wormer. The recommendation is to treat with 2 broad spectrum wormers which are most likely to kill all worms carried. **The simplest regime which also takes into account a scab risk is Zolvix and Cydectin 1%. However if Footvax has or is going to be used Zolvix and Dectomax injection or OP dip.**

Step 2. Holding

Hold sheep off pasture for 24-48 hours, until any worm eggs present in the gut have passed out with the dung. Faecal egg count (FEC) sampling at least 10 sheep where possible, 14 days after treatment will show that the worming regime has worked. Manure produced during this post-treatment period should **NOT** be spread on grass that will be grazed by sheep.

Step 3. Turnout onto contaminated pastures

Bought-in animals should then be turned out onto pasture contaminated with the farm's natural population of worm eggs and larvae. This helps to dilute any resistant worms that may have survived the treatment and rapidly infects the new animals with the farms specific worm population. This shortens the period when any introduced worms are dominant.

LIVER FLUKE

A treatment with fluke products other than triclabendazole is prudent (*resistance to triclabendazole has been reported in sheep, and more rarely in cattle*). Sheep should be kept off pastures for at least four weeks after treatment to prevent resistant fluke being introduced (**infected animals can pass eggs for up to three weeks after the adult flukes have died**). Remember that no flukicide kills all fluke with one dose, immature fluke need to be killed by treating twice.

SCAB

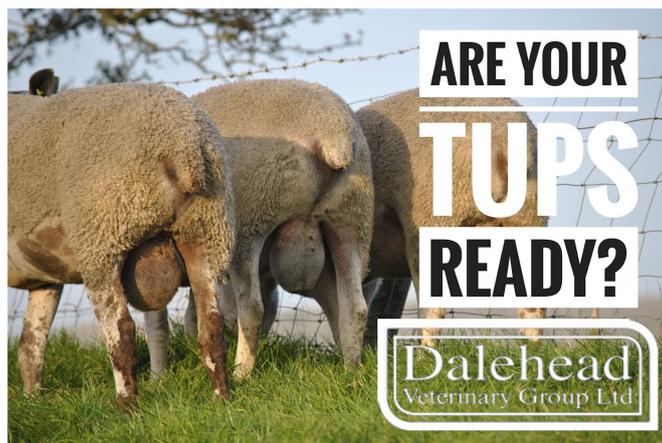
Considering the fact that the resistance of scab to group 3 injections (e.g. Cydectin, Dectomax) was identified in late 2017, and that the use of these products also increases the resistance of worms to clear drenches, this emphasises the importance of using drugs responsibly and of quarantining bought-in and sheep grazed on other holdings. There is a blood sample available for detecting whether sheep have been exposed to scab. This can be used to monitor the disease in sheep grazed on open fells, in purchased stock or as a marketing tool if selling sheep.

TUP FERTILITY TESTING

Its hard to believe we are in September and neck deep in breeding sheep sales, but before we know it the whole process will start again with tugging time. Ideally tups should be inspected at least 6 weeks before they are due to be used. So depending on when you put your tups in, now is the time to start thinking about your tups fertility and general health status.

We can examine tups on farm, but ideally we ask for tups to be brought to the Settle surgery where we will perform a full fertility inspection, including:

- Full clinical examination and if required
- Collection of semen samples,
- Analysis of sperm count and viability under the microscope to determine how fertile the tup is likely to be.



PRODUCT NEWS

Sheep Clostridial/ Pneumonia Vaccines

Heptavac P — we are told that a limited quantity of 100ml and 500ml bottles will be delivered in mid September.

Bravoxin — we are hopeful of a delivery of 50ml and 100ml bottles in October.

Ovovac P — 100ml bottles out of stock, we still have supplies of 500ml bottles.

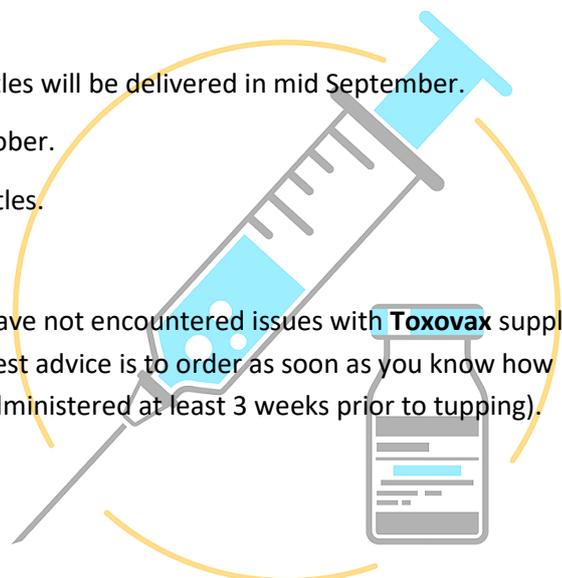
Sheep Abortion Vaccines

We do not anticipate supply issues with Enzootic Abortion Vaccines. We have not encountered issues with **Toxovax** supply yet this year but are just approaching the period of peak demand so the best advice is to order as soon as you know how many doses you will need and when you want it delivering (needs to be administered at least 3 weeks prior to tugging).

Footrot Vaccines

20, 50 and 250 dose Footvax all currently available.

Cattle Products



UPCOMING MEETINGS



ON FARM MEETING

DAIRY CALF HEALTH AND HOUSING

October 2023

Date and location to be confirmed...

To register your interest or for more information please contact the surgery.

ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE PATHWAY

There has been a fantastic up take of the animal health and welfare pathway grant which was launched earlier this year. If you like more information on the available funding please contact the surgery or visit the website below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/animal-health-and-welfare-pathway/animal-health-and-welfare-pathway>.

