

# Vet Viewpoint

A regional round-up of key veterinary issues



**Charlotte Baikie**  
Westmorland Vet  
Group  
Cumbria

\* Now is a good time to check the condition of teat-cup liners. General wear and tear causes liners to lose their shape, leading them to slip during milking.

Chemicals used can roughen and split liners. This damages teats and allows bacteria to collect in the liners, raising the risk of mastitis. It can also increase milking times and bactoscan readings. Look out for cracks, splits or twists in liners, and any roughness or black residue.

Other signs include teat discolouration or swelling after milking, irritable cows during milking and slower milking times. It is recommended that liners are changed every 2,500 milkings.



**Leona Robertson**  
Northvet Vet Group  
Orkney

\* Autumn brought a lot of husk, with devastating effects in both youngstock and adult cows. Despite treatment, cows have taken months to recover and were not in the best condition at housing.

As housing is stressful for young calves, we always expect pneumonia outbreaks. Weaning, dosing, clipping and change of diet all cause stress too, contributing to disease outbreaks.

November was very mild here, with temperatures in double figures and not much wind. In poorly ventilated buildings, milder weather has led to a greater number of pneumonia cases than in previous years.

Get your vet's advice on prevention, including improving ventilation and vaccinating stock, to help reduce incidences.



**Steve Borsberry**  
608 Farm and Equine  
Vet Surgeons  
Warwickshire

\* I am a big fan of teat sealants but, due to the low milk price, some farmers may not use them to cut costs (about £700 for a 100-cow herd). New infections

controlling lameness in sheep, it has been difficult to persuade some clients not to trim feet, but early identification, treatment with topical antibiotics and/or an antibiotic injection has proved extremely successful.



**Keith Cutler**  
Endell Vet Group  
Wiltshire

\* Pneumonia season suddenly seems to be here. Even when vaccines are used at the correct time, none will provide complete protection against all infectious causes of calf pneumonia.

The adequacy of ventilation in cattle sheds, group composition

and nutritional status also have an impact.

BVD causes immunosuppression, so vaccines are less effective. Do you know your herd's BVD status and how are you managing and eradicating this virus? If your calves are bought in, are you certain none are persistently infected?

Why not buy calves identified with a white tag-and-test ear tag, showing they have been tested?

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