

Vet Viewpoint

A regional round-up of key veterinary issues



Howard Kencock

Wensum Valley Vets
Norfolk

* A high proportion of respiratory disease in cattle occurs

within one month of housing and usually sees autumn-born calves more severely affected. Interaction between viruses and bacteria result in severe illness.

Prevention is always better than a cure, so good management along with proper housing is key. Calves should receive plenty of colostrum and stressful events such as weaning, castration and housing should not be carried out together. Also avoid mixing different ages of stock to prevent disease being transferred to the younger animals with low immunity.

Many vaccines are available and can be used to help protect susceptible animals. They should be used in combination with good management.



John Cammack

Glenthorne
Veterinary Group

* Now is the time to plan your post-housing cattle

parasite treatments.

All youngstock benefit from an avermectin-type wormer treatment, which will remove inhibited worms (the cause of winter dysentery) as well as providing lice and mange control. The long-acting products are unnecessary, as the cattle will not be picking up any worms inside.

In fluke areas, treat all cattle a few weeks post-housing with a flukicide as well. If using a flukicide that only kills adults, a second treatment eight weeks later is advisable to remove any remaining flukes. This will also help reduce pasture contamination when cattle are turned out in spring.



Matthew Berriman

Rosevean Veterinary
Practice
Cornwall

* We diagnosed our first case of

Schmallenberg virus about a month ago. The affected herd had a number of cows with severe milk drop and scour lasting about a week.

Since the initial diagnosis, bulk milk tests on a number of herds have

all indicated exposure to the virus. We suspect most herds and flocks across the area have been infected, but will have to wait until the spring to see if there is any increase in the number of abnormal calves and lambs born.

Many herds have suffered poor conception rates due to suboptimal energy intakes through the summer due to weather conditions. Other reasons include: BVD outbreaks,

infertile bulls and even a broken semen flask.



Graham Tibbot

Castle Vets
County Durham

* With winter approaching and many farms short on

feed, it is worth pregnancy scanning ewes. There are several advantages to this: ewes with singles should not require supplementary feeding unless body condition scores are low; those carrying multiple lambs can be managed separately to prevent twin lamb disease and any barren ewes can be sold fat. A barren ewe rate of more than 5% warrants investigation; blood can be tested

for trace element deficiency or infectious disease.

Farmers lambing early should be aware of abortion. Any ewe aborting should be isolated until discharges have stopped. Also remove afterbirth and lambs from the pasture to prevent spread of infection. If more than 2% of ewes abort, you should consult your vet. Reliable vaccines are available to prevent toxoplasma and enzootic abortion.

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A regional monthly round-up of key veterinary issues from members of the XL Vets group. For more information, go to www.xlvets.co.uk



**NEW
DATA**

How good is your IBR control?

IBR is increasingly important in the UK with a study identifying infected animals in 96% of herds¹. Causing respiratory and reproductive disease, IBR can negatively impact herd profitability.

Within a herd some cows will be infected carriers and some will be naive and uninfected. Effective control of IBR at the herd level needs effective control at the cow level. The two Risposal IBR Marker vaccines now

offer a simple 2-step vaccination programme, flexible enough to protect the right animal in the right way and the only programme licensed to give up to 12 months protection from a single booster.

Each farm is different and IBR is a complex disease, therefore your vet can best advise on the most appropriate IBR vaccination programme for you.

Reference: 1. Woodbine K.A. et al. (2009) BMC Veterinary Research 5:5

RISPOVAL[®] IBR
Marker Live



RISPOVAL[®] IBR
Marker Inactivated



Risposal IBR Marker vaccines, helping to improve IBR control

Pfizer Animal Health

For further information please contact your veterinary surgeon or Pfizer Animal Health, Walton Oaks, Tadworth, Surrey, KT20 7NS. Risposal[®] IBR Marker Inactivated contains inactivated gE-negative BHV-1 strain Difivar. [POM-V] Risposal[®] IBR Marker Live contains attenuated gE-negative BHV-1 strain Difivar. [POM-V] Use medicines responsibly. (www.rosh.co.uk/responsible)

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