



FARM FIRST NEWSLETTER



SEPTEMBER 2021

PREPARING FOR WINTER - CALF PNEUMONIA

As the nights begin to shorten it's a sure sign that we are on our way back into the winter months and it's time to get prepared for winter housing of calves, which is a peak time for calf pneumonia to rear its ugly head. Vaccination programmes and other preventative measures can be undertaken now to prevent these outbreaks. The cost of pneumonia can be anywhere from £30-80/affected calf or significantly more if the animal dies. Drug treatments, labour, lost growth rates and carcass rejection all contribute to these estimated costs. Pneumonia is more common in the autumn/winter months as multiple stress factors coincide resulting in overwhelming stress on the immune system.

➤ Stressors involved are:

- Weaning
- Change of environment (housing)
- Poor ventilation (housing)
- Castration/Dehorning
- Diet change/poor nutrition
- Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) Virus
- Mixing groups of calves



WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PREVENT PNEUMONIA OUTBREAKS?

- 1. Vaccination.** Vaccines against bacterial and viral pneumonia are available which cover the most common causes such as RSV, Pi3 and IBR viruses, Mannheimia (Pasteurella), Histophilus and BVD. Vaccination needs to be planned and should be given before the high-risk time i.e. housing. Some vaccines can be given up the nose of the calves and give protection within 10 days, but this only lasts 3 months. Others can be injected, and require 2 doses 3- 4 weeks apart before immunity is developed, and provide 6 months cover. Therefore, if you are thinking of housing in November then vaccination needs to be started in September. Speak to a vet for advice on the most appropriate approach for you.
- 2. Avoid multiple stressors at the same time.** Increased levels of stress cause increased blood cortisol levels which in turn reduces immunity. It's common to castrate + dehorn + wean + house calves all in one go to reduce the amount of handling, but this is very stressful on the calves. Ideally try to stagger these events as much as possible
- 3. Assess Housing Ventilation.** This is often the biggest issue and the one that is least often dealt with. When assessing housing a good place to start is to look up! There must be adequate gaps for air to escape up through the apex of the shed. If you need to clip cattle in the winter to stop them sweating in the shed, it's because the air has nowhere to escape so it lands back on the cattle. Avoiding draughts is also important. Your vet can help advise you on your housing requirements as it can vary on location, age of cattle and stocking density.
- 4. BVD Herd Control** BVD virus in a herd will lower the herds' immunity and is frequently a contributing factor to pneumonia outbreaks. Both English and Welsh government are running BVD schemes which subsidise testing of the herd, so it is well worth taking advantage of this. This is easily done by blood sampling a small number of youngstock to look for presence of the disease.
- 5. Get a Diagnosis.** If you have any calves that you suspect had pneumonia during the spring, then blood samples can be taken now to help identify the cause. Sampling sick calves before antibiotics are given, or a carrying out a post-mortem on any dead animal can also be very helpful.

HIGH HOUSE PREMISES

OPENING HOURS
MON & WED
9:30AM - 1.00 PM

WE HAVE A GOOD STOCK OF WORMERS AND FLY PRODUCTS AVAILABLE & YOU CAN ALSO PICK UP PRE-ORDERED PRESCRIPTION MEDICINES.

PLEASE CALL AND SEE WHAT WE HAVE ON OFFER.



USK SHOW

Please come and visit us on stand E56 opposite the cattle ring. We have some delicious refreshments on offer and be holding a raffle with lots of great prizes in aid of 3 Farming Charities. We are looking really forwards to welcoming you on the day!

SHEEP ABORTION VACCINES

IT'S CEVAC CHLAMYDIA/ TOXOVAX TIME AGAIN!

Things to remember:

Cevac Chlamydia: Must be given at least 4 weeks before tugging. Must be ordered with 24-hours notice (Mon-Thurs). Keep in fridge until use.

ToxoVax: Must be given at least 3 weeks before tugging. Must be ordered at least 2 weeks in advance. Short Shelf Life (7-10 days when arrives). Keep in fridge until use.

SHEEP WORM EGG COUNTS



We have seen some very high worm egg counts in lambs recently, so if you are seeing any scouring lambs or poor growth rates, please bring in samples for testing. Results are available the same day or next day (if brought in late). There are free packs for collecting samples at reception, so please pick one up next time that you are passing. Mob tests (10 samples pooled) cost £19.26 + VAT for the first set and £13.48 + VAT for an additional set.

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRE-ORDER
YOUR DRUGS 24 HRS IN ADVANCE
OVER THE TELEPHONE!
THANK YOU**

FARMING CONNECT CLINICS £250 FOR TESTING

Many of our clients have not yet taken advantage of the FC money that is available to cover the cost of lab testing/post mortems/fertility testing etc. If you are registered with Farming Connect and have not claimed since 1st December last year, then give us a ring to see how we can use this funding to benefit your farm.



QUARANTINE TREATMENTS

We are now well into the sheep sale season and you may have seen some of our staff at sales giving advice on quarantine treatments. It is important to avoid bringing resistant parasites such as worms/fluke and sheep scab onto your farm. For advice on which products to use please contact us for advice.

STAFF NEWS

We are really sorry to say that Sarah Davies is leaving us to take up an exciting new job as events manager for CLA Wales. Although she wasn't with us for long, Sarah has made a great contribution to the practice for which we are very grateful. We wish her all the best in her new role.

Our Spanish TB tester Chema has also decided to leave us after more than two years of hard work in very difficult times. He has suggested that he may return after a break, so we hope that we will see him again at some point. We have a new face in the office, Shannon Jenkins has joined us through the Kickstart Scheme, and is already proving that she is far better at IT than Rob and Jane!

JOKE

Old Farmer Smith was driving along the motorway when his mobile phone rang. It was his wife "Bert," she said. "I just heard on the news that there's a car going the wrong way on the motorway. Please be careful." "Hell!" exclaimed Bert. "It's not just one car. It's hundreds of them!"

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