

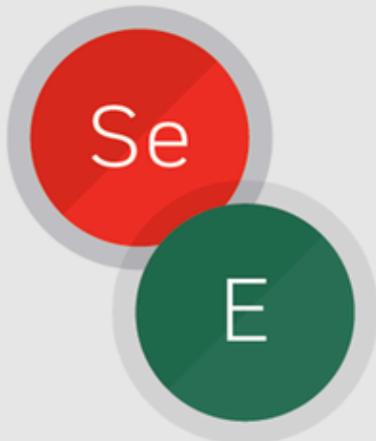
## ARE YOUR COWS STRUGGLING AT CALVING AND CALVES BORN WEAK?

Good selenium provision is critical around calving for both cows and calves. During late pregnancy, cows prioritise transferring selenium to the calf, often depleting their own reserves. Combined with the physical stress of calving, this increases the need for antioxidants such as **selenium and vitamin E**. Adequate selenium and vitamin E aids in the improvement of colostrum quality, fertility support and tighter calving patterns, and aids immune function and recovery after calving. Selenium and vitamin E work, enhancing each other's antioxidant benefits.

**IMPACT ON CALVES** Shortfalls in selenium and vitamin E can result in: weak, floppy calves needing assisted suckling, poor colostrum intake and reduced IgG (protective antibody) uptake, slower immune development and growth, increased susceptibility to digestive issues and in severe cases, weak hearts and higher early-life mortality.

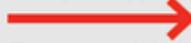
**A PRACTICAL SOLUTION** Traditionally, selenium deficiencies have been managed with injections, (NB we only have an imported, expensive version of this at the moment) often requiring repeated handling of cows and calves. **Esey CALVER BOLUS** provides a 60-day continuous release of selenium, vitamin E and grape extract, supporting cows and calves through calving without repeated handling.

### LABOUR SAVING



Selenium & Vitamin E injections

**7 DAYS\***



Repeated injections frequently required.

\*if a shortfall is present, repeated injections required every 7 days.



**60 days**



Full coverage through period of increased requirement

#### Esey CALVER supports:

- Calving, recovery, colostrum production and return to service
- Calf vigour, growth and digestive health

A 60-day antioxidant bolus, designed to be given **3 weeks prior to calving**, delivering consistent daily support through this critical period. A similar product is available for sheep called **Esey Lamber**.

## NEW MOVEMENT RESTRICTIONS FOR INCONCLUSIVE TB REACTORS IN WALES FROM 1<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2026

All standard interpretation Inconclusive Reactor (IR) cattle in Wales that test negative at the re-test from 1st January 2026 onwards will remain restricted to their holding for life. The policy change is being introduced following a request from industry and subsequent independent expert advice. Scientific evidence demonstrates these animals are 3 times more likely to become TB reactors than clear-tested cattle. These animals can then only move directly to slaughterhouses or Approved Finishing Units via licensed routes, including approved slaughter gatherings or TB dedicated sales.

Further guidance is available: <https://www.gov.wales/bovine-tb-whole-life-restrictions-resolved-standard-interpretation-inconclusive-reactors>.

## JOHNES IMPACT IN DAIRY HERDS

Many of our dairy herds will have recently updated their annual Johnes plan. PAN Livestock Services have undertaken new research into understanding the impact of Johnes's disease on dairy cattle productivity. This work, funded by Idexx, has revealed the hidden costs of Johnes's disease, with serious impacts being seen before clinical signs appear. The study examined the associations between Johnes's milk ELISA results and various key performance indicators at both the herd and individual cow level.

**Impacts at herd level** Higher Johnes's disease levels (as indicated by average test value, ATV) were linked to the following herds:

- Herds with higher ATVs (average test values) retained older cows (typically with higher Johnes's titres) and delayed culling
- Retaining cows with higher titres reduces overall productivity
- For every unit increase in the herd's ATV, **milk output was reduced by 112kg of milk per cow per year and average somatic cell count increased by 6,840 cells/ml**
- Herds with an ATV of nine or higher had lower fertility. Cows were up to 1.8 months older at first calving. **Up to 4.9% fewer cows were pregnant by 100 days post-partum and calving interval was increased by up to 18.6 days.**

These findings are averaged across all cows in the herd, not just cows that test positive.

**Impacts at the individual cow level** More mature cows are more likely to test positive and have higher milk ELISA titres, which is linked to reduced milk output and higher risk of being culled.

Among cows with a highest milk ELISA test value below 60 during lactation, 23.7% left the herd at the end of the lactation. In contrast, 37.0% of cows with values between 60 and 100, and 51.7% of those with values above 100, exited the herd. Similarly, cows with a highest ELISA value below 60 during lactation produced an average of 10,353 kg of milk, whereas cows with values of 60 to 100 and over 100 produced 724 kg and 1,297 kg less, respectively.

## ★★★★★ NEW YEAR OFFERS ★★★★★

### REDUCED PRICE CALF SCOUR TESTS

It is at this time of year that we usually see an increase in the number of cases of scouring baby calves that we are asked to look at. Many of these cases are caused by diseases that we can easily prevent by vaccination. We have reduced the cost of testing to £5 + VAT per sample (1-2 samples per farm), to help find out what is causing the problem, treat correctly and prevent further cases. This test will check for *E.coli*, rotavirus, coronavirus and cryptosporidium. If you want to submit any samples under this offer please speak to one of the vets. The best calves to test are those that have been scouring for 1-2 days only.

### LAMB POST MORTEM

Over the next few months we will be offering to postmortem lambs that die under 1 week of age at the surgery for £10 + VAT. This offer does not include extra testing or disposal of the lambs. We will need some history, and the lambs should be delivered in a bag labelled with the name and address. We hope to provide some useful information about the cause of death, so that future losses can be prevented.



**NoBACZ**  
Product  
of the  
Month

NAVEL DISINFECTANT  
SOLUTION IS  
DESIGNED TO PROVIDE  
RAPID DISINFECTION  
AND PROTECTION FOR  
NAVELS

### UPCOMING NADIS MEETINGS

- Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January - Beef Sustainable Farming Scheme
- Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February - Sheep Sustainable Farming Scheme

At Monmouthshire Livestock Market, NP15 2BH. Starting at 7pm. Food Provided.  
If you would like to book onto a meeting please phone the office on 01873 840167