

Dear Farmer,

CATTLE HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMMES

The need to cut production costs and the increased concern for animal welfare have highlighted the benefits of introducing a cattle health improvement programme. A planned approach is the most cost effective way to prevent and control disease, leading to increased growth rates, milk yields, stock value and fertility, along with reduced mortalities and lower labour costs. Common endemic diseases can produce dramatic disease outbreaks in individual herds but are more often insidious, causing less obvious but still considerable losses.

Did you know?

- Over 50 per cent of the UK's dairy and beef herds show evidence of exposure to BVD virus
- Johne's disease has increased steadily in milking cows and breeding stock over the last 10 years
- The commonest cause of abortion in UK cattle is neospora
- Leptospira causes abortion and 'milk drop' in infected cows and can cause 'flu-like' illness in people working with cattle
- IBR causes respiratory disease in adult cattle and young stock and can be introduced into herds by apparently healthy 'carrier' animals
- Liver fluke, which infects grazing cattle, has increased significantly over the last five years

Moorgate are registered to participate in the AHVLA Herdsure cattle improvement scheme. Please see the attached leaflet for further information on this scheme or speak to one of our vets.



BOVINE VIRAL DIARRHOEA

Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) is a pestivirus infection of cattle. It causes a variety of clinical outcomes that range from the inapparent (sub-clinical) to the more severe, including abortion, infertility, an immuno-suppression that underlies calf respiratory and enteric diseases and most dramatically, the fatal mucosal disease.

The disease is maintained by a small population of animals that become persistently infected (PI) with the virus. These PI

animals are the major reservoir of BVDV and arise after becoming infected whilst in the uterus during early pregnancy. Such infections remain throughout the pregnancy and after birth for the lifetime of the animal. Interestingly, although infection of the foetus results in a persistent infection, the mother is only transiently infected and becomes immune to the virus within 2-3 weeks. PI calves often die prematurely with respiratory or enteric disease but may also live a relatively normal life for several years, all the time shedding large amounts of virus and acting as a reservoir of infection for in-contact cattle.

Thus PIs are the main and most significant source of infection of BVD virus. Removing PIs from the population removes the source of infection and reduces the disease reproduction rate to the point that the virus cannot survive and the disease is controlled. There are other methods of virus maintenance and transmission but they are considered of lesser significance in maintaining the disease.

The virus survives poorly in the environment and has no significant survival in other species e.g. other livestock or wild animals. With this epidemiology understood it is now possible and practical to control and eradicate BVD from cattle populations.

Good diagnostic tests exist to detect both the PI animals and also the antibody status of the herd (i.e. to indicate whether BVD virus is present and circulating within a group of cattle). Good vaccines exist to protect breeding cattle and prevent the creation and birth of PIs. This disease is now eminently controllable.

This endemic viral disease of cattle is common in the UK and causes significant losses. Herds with BVD suffer infertility and reproductive disorders. Their health is poor with problems such as pneumonia and scour. The disease may be insidious and protracted, you get used to living with the problem in the herd, to the point where you don't realise how badly it affects you until it is gone.

Many farmers do not realise that their herds are infected and those that aren't infected may be at significant risk of becoming so with potentially disastrous consequences.

It is possible to control BVD at farm level and the disease could be eradicated if the industry as a whole co-operates.

BVD control and eradication is relevant for any farm whether the disease is there or not. Even if a herd is uninfected it needs protection, as introduction of BVD into a herd that has not been previously exposed to BVD could be disastrous. As more and more herds become clear of infection protection becomes easier as the risks of infection reduce.

Vaccination – IS THIS THE TIME OF YEAR YOU SHOULD BE VACCINATING YOUR CATTLE?

Several vaccines are available to protect the foetus against transplacental infection with Bovine Viral Diarrhoea virus. This protection can be achieved providing that primary immunisation (two doses, 4 weeks apart) has been finalised 4 weeks before the start of the gestation. Revaccination regimes should be part of your herd health plan, ideally cows should be revaccinated (one dose) annually after calving and 4 weeks before going in with the bull.



Bovilis BVD vaccine is available from Moorgate on next working day delivery in a range of vial sizes.

50 Dose = £100.00 25 Dose = £52.00 10 Dose = £21.00 5 Dose = £10.50
Prices shown exclude VAT. This vaccine is a fridge item and therefore non-returnable.



UPGRADED DOG VACCINES

A quick reminder to dog owners. We have upgraded our leptospirosis dog vaccine to include even more strains. So when you bring your dog in this year for its annual vaccination it will be given a second vaccination at no extra charge.



PASTEURELLA & CLOSTRIDIAL DISEASE PREVENTION IN LAMBS

Vaccinating ewes with Heptavac-P Plus initially helps protect their lambs via the colostrum. However, this passive immunity wanes leaving lambs unprotected. Therefore it is also important that lambs being retained for growing and store lambs are also vaccinated to protect them from Pasteurella and clostridial diseases. Heptavac-P Plus can be used from a minimum age of 3 weeks old. They require two 2ml doses, 4 to 6 weeks apart.



Alternatively Ovivac-P Plus can be used for growing and store lambs, again at the same dosing guidelines of two 2ml doses, 4 to 6 weeks apart, at a minimum age of 3 weeks. Thereafter they must receive booster injections at intervals of not more than 12 months BUT it is important that the Ovivac-P Plus is not given to replacement ewes and rams. For this reason many farmers choose to use only Heptavac-P Plus at a young age as they are uncertain which lambs will be kept back as replacements and for compliance reasons.

Heptavac-P Plus 50ml = £17.00 Ovivac-P Plus 100ml = £22.78
 Heptavac-P Plus 100ml = £30.00 Ovivac-P Plus 500ml = £99.57
 Heptavac-P Plus 250ml = £72.50
 Heptavac-P Plus 500ml = £135.00

Prices shown exclude VAT. Available from Moorgate on next working day delivery. This vaccine is a fridge item and therefore non-returnable.



ARE YOUR HERD AND FLOCK HEALTH PLANS UP TO DATE?

Health planning is an essential tool for improving profitability and animal health and many farmers will already have existing herd and/or flock health plans in place. These plans are most effective when accurate records are kept and therefore should be re-assessed annually by a vet to go through management and preventative measures that can be implemented on farm. Remember prevention is much better than cure and much less costly.

Practice Facilities

- 24 Hour Emergency Service
- Disease Treatments
- Disease Prevention
- Pregnancy Diagnosis
- Synchronisation of Oestrus
- Herd & Flock Health Plans
- Tuberculin Testing
- Castrations
- Dehorning

BOVEY TRACEY SURGERY

Mill House, Station Road,
 Bovey Tracey, Newton
 Abbot, TQ13 9AL
 TELEPHONE ; 01626
 833023

MORETONHAMPSTEAD SURGERY

31 Court Street,
 Moretonhampstead,
 Newton Abbot, TQ13 8LG
 TELEPHONE ; 01647
 440441

CHRISTOW SURGERY

Old Mines Road, Christow,
 Exeter, EX6 7NS
 For appointments/repeat
 prescriptions etc.
 telephone; 01626 833023

FOR OUT OF HOUR EMERGENCIES PLEASE

**TELEPHONE : 01647
 440441**

