

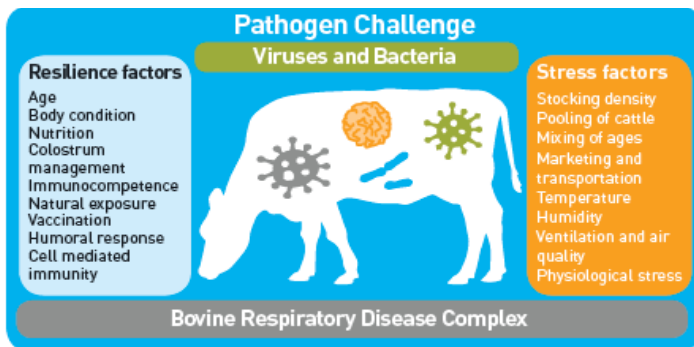
Dear Farmer,

Welcome to our November edition of our farm newsletter. As always if there are any topics you would like to see in the newsletter please let us know.

## VACCINATION IS A KEY TOOL IN THE CONTROL OF BOVINE RESPIRATORY DISEASE

Bovine Respiratory Disease (BRD) represents a significant threat to calf health, welfare and farm profitability on both beef and dairy farms. Developing a plan to control this costly but common disease is critical. Vaccination can be a valuable tool in preventing disease.

BRD is not a simple problem, and results from a complex interaction between infectious agents, including viruses and bacteria, and a range of environmental and management factors. Suboptimal conditions can compromise the calf's resilience to respiratory disease, allowing viruses and bacteria to take hold and leading to outbreaks of disease.



A wide range of organisms can cause respiratory disease. Viruses are often the initial invaders: the lung damage and impaired immunity they produce then allows bacterial infections to gain a hold, resulting in potentially severe disease.

Viruses including respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), parainfluenza 3 virus (PI-3), bovine viral diarrhoea virus (BVDV) and bovine herpes virus 1 (BHV-1), are commonly implicated in outbreaks of BRD. *Mannheimia haemolytica*, is a common secondary bacterial invader. Multivalent vaccines, containing several pathogens can provide a useful tool in the control of disease.

Effective treatment relies on early identification and treatment of affected individuals to reduce the severity

and spread of disease. Initial signs include fever, dullness, reduced feed intake, watery discharge from the nose and eyes, increased respiratory rate and coughing. Later in the course of disease a pus-like nasal discharge and severe respiratory compromise are seen and these animals may respond poorly to treatment and die.

The immediate cost of a BRD outbreak includes high vet and medicine costs, but the longer term effects can have just as much impact on farm profitability. Affected dairy heifers may take up to an additional 14 days to reach service weight, while average daily live weight gains in growing beef cattle can be reduced by up to 0.2kg/day. Recovered animals with chronic lung damage will be less productive, pushing up the cost of production across the group.

The risk of BRD can never be completely overcome. Record keeping and analysis is key to identifying trends in disease associated with the seasons or other management practices. Recording and reviewing the number of cases, treatments and outcomes can provide valuable information when developing control and treatment protocols.

Prevention is better – and certainly cheaper - than cure. Vaccination of young and growing animals is a cost-effective method to help prevent BRD. Good housing conditions and good husbandry practices can help keep your calves healthy. Selecting a vaccine which contains relevant bacteria and viruses, and observing best practice when storing and using vaccines will optimise the protection they provide.

Merial Animal Health has launched a range of vaccines, BOVALTO<sup>®</sup> RESPI 3 and RESPI 4, to help dairy and beef farmers manage BRD.

BOVALTO RESPI 3 contains clinically relevant strains of key BRD pathogens PI-3, RSV and *Mannheimia haemolytica* serotype A1. BOVALTO RESPI 4 contains a unique combination of these three pathogens along with BVDV.

### COST:

**Bovalto Respi 3: £5.40 + VAT a dose**

**Bovalto Respi 4: £6.40 + VAT a dose**

**Pack Sizes: 5 or 25 Dose**



## GETTING THE MOST OUT OF BRD VACCINATION

- ✓ **Vaccine selection:** A vaccine protocol should be developed with your vet and take into account the specific features and risks on your farm along with history of disease and diagnostic test results.
- ✓ **Calf health status:** Resilience to disease and vaccine efficacy will be increased if animals are healthy and receiving good nutrition. Cold stress can have a major impact in young calves. Sick animals should not be vaccinated.
- ✓ **Plan ahead:** Wherever possible, ensure that calves are fully vaccinated ahead of periods of high BRD risk.
- ✓ **Storage and handling:** Ensure vaccines are stored and handled according to the instructions on the datasheet and that refrigerators are operating at the correct temperature.
- ✓ **Timing:** Follow the protocol given in the product datasheet, ensuring the interval between vaccines in the primary course and any subsequent boosters is observed.
- ✓ **Accurate dosing:** Use an appropriate injector and calibrate equipment before use to check that the correct dose is being delivered to each animal; underdosing will affect the efficacy of vaccines.
- ✓ **Correct administration:** Ensure the correct route of administration is used (intramuscular or subcutaneous) according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- ✓ **Housing and management:** Assessing and addressing issues such as poor ventilation and air quality, excessive moisture and humidity, overcrowding, and mixing of ages/groups is key to pneumonia control, and will allow vaccines to work more effectively.

### LAMBING COURSE

Following the success of previous lambing courses held at the practice we are looking to hold our next lambing course on:

**Wednesday 11th January 2017  
at 9am**

**Venue: Moretonhampstead Surgery**

The course will be held by Ashley Rubens BVetMed CertSP MRCVS, for smallholders and new farmers who want to expand their knowledge for the coming lambing season.

The course will be around two hours long and will cost £25 including a full set of notes. Reduced to £20 for those who have previously purchased course notes.

**To book phone Lottie on 01626 833023  
or email [moorgatevets@btconnect.com](mailto:moorgatevets@btconnect.com)**



### TIMING OF WINTER FLUKE TREATMENT

With the majority of our beef clients grazing land that has a high risk of liver fluke, we do recommend preventative treatment.

An ideal time to treat the herd for liver fluke is over winter when the animals are not at risk of picking up new infection, because they are indoors, or the maximum temperature stays below 10C. This way the whole burden can be eliminated in one treatment

Bear in mind that some fluke treatments are only effective against fluke older than 8 weeks so you should delay treatment until 8 weeks after housing to ensure all have matured to a stage where they are susceptible

Speak to one of our vets if you want to discuss parasite treatment options this winter.

### Practice Facilities

Appointment System  
Parking  
24 Hour Emergency Service  
Modern Surgical Facilities  
Nurse Clinics  
In-House Laboratory  
Digital X Ray Machine  
Pet Care Plans

#### 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**

