Calf Pneumonia risk

Weather conditions have been favourable throughout most of September and October which means that a lot of cattle are still out enjoying the green stuff. With housing just around the corner there is still time to take some actions to reduce the risk of respiratory disease this winter.

By now you may well have forgotten how many calves you had to treat for respiratory disease last winter but if it’s not too painful try and cast your mind back. It’s not too late to take action on some of the advice you were probably given at the time by the vet injecting your cattle. Good ventilation is key to keep the air fresh in the building so the pathogens don’t survive and infect lots of animals. Vaccination will help protect against the key pathogens which cause the vast majority of disease and reduce the level of bug shedding from infected animals. As with all infectious diseases good nutrition, animal husbandry and minimizing stress will also have a significant impact on the amount of disease. Speak to one of the vets for more help with vaccinations plans and building ventilation. We are also running a meeting on 3rd December which will focus on preventing respiratory disease.

FARMERS MEETING

‘Calf Pneumonia - the domino effect’

Thursday 3rd December

Hunters Lodge Hotel, Sydney Road, Crewe CW1 5LU - 7.00 for 7.15pm

PIE, CHIPS AND A PINT!

Sponsored by zoetis

RSVP by 27th November to Sally Earl/Lisa Rankin 01606 723200 or Emyr Rowlands 07968 817979

PLACES ARE LIMITED SO PLEASE BOOK EARLY
A few farewells
We extend our best wishes to Rachel Adams as she leaves us to take up some locum work and prepares to see some of the world! Many of you have benefitted from Rachel’s excellent vetting over the years and we wish her every success for the future.
Caroline Williams (nee Bunn) has gone on maternity leave with the arrival of her baby scheduled for early December. Best wishes to Caroline and Dave as they embark into rearing youngstock! We hope to have Caroline back with us in due course when family life permits.

Liver Fluke
It’s that time of year again when we start talking about liver fluke. This is relevant whether you have beef, sheep, dairy cows or just young stock. Animals which are grazed on contaminated pasture are at risk regardless of age.
If you have had liver fluke identified in recent years or months then it’s time to review your control plan with your vet. If you haven’t had problems recently then continue to be vigilant. There are a variety of options we can use to continue to monitor for liver fluke. In dairy cows we can look for fluke antibody in the bulk tank to indicate exposure. In cattle and sheep we can also look for antibody in bloods and look for fluke eggs in faeces. There are a large number of products for treating liver fluke in cattle and sheep. It is vital that you choose the right product if you are to stay in control of fluke on your farm. Speak to your vet or to Mark Pass at Beeston before you spend your money. Things to consider are method of administration, product efficacy against immature fluke, fluke resistance against active ingredients, stage of production and the relevant withdrawal periods for meat and milk production. As you can see there are plenty of factors to consider!!

Sheep meeting
Our recent Sheep Farmers Meeting entitled ‘Preparing for Winter’ was a huge success with over 90 farmers attending.
The topics covered were:
Limping to success by Steve Press of MSD
Lamb finishing by Liz Brown of Agrimin
Improving productivity by worming ‘Startect’ by Ifor Jones of Zoetis
Fluke Management by Steph Small of Norbrook

BVD check tag programme
Many of you have started using these since our awareness campaign last year. We continue to encounter BVD PIs in many herds, including vaccinated herds, which have a huge impact on the growth rate and health of their peer group. For a couple of quid more than a normal ear tag you can use the BVD check tag as part of the calf’s normal identification requirement. In return you get to know if that calf is a PI before you spend money on rearing it and its pen mates. In addition if a calf is negative then we can assume its dam is also negative. Some of the supermarkets have now jumped on this bandwagon too now, obviously convinced that our strategy is the way forward! If you are involved with one of those requiring BVD eradication then this will shortly be compulsory. Regardless of who you sell your milk to or even if you produce beef calves BVD check tagging is a useful and valuable thing to do. Speak to your vet or Mark Pass at Beeston Animal Health for more information about the tag options.