Imrestor is a new, first-of-its-kind product set to revolutionise the way the profession addresses transition disease, with the potential to help reduce antibiotic usage.

During The Vital 90 Days - 60 days before to 30 days after calving - dairy cows experience a dip in their natural immunity, leaving them especially vulnerable to important diseases such as mastitis, metritis and retained placenta. With serious cost consequences and implications for cow welfare and productivity, this makes the transition period one of the most challenging yet vital periods for vets to manage with dairy clients.

Developed by Elanco Animal Health, Imrestor (pegbovigrastim injection) effectively aids in restoring the cow’s natural defenses by increasing the number and restoring the function of neutrophils, the primary type of white blood cell that recognizes and kills harmful bacteria.

Fiona Anderson, Technical Vet at Elanco, explains the importance of adopting a preventative approach to the calving period:

“It’s no secret that a successful transition period is vital for maximising productivity in the next lactation, yet we are still ‘firefighting’ common transition diseases like mastitis rather than focusing on their true cause.”

“Vets are under increasing pressure to adopt a more proactive approach, not least to reduce the use of antibiotics in livestock but with few credible alternatives. This can be challenging in dairy herds, particularly around calving when cows are susceptible to multiple disease challenges while their defences are low. Imrestor helps to restore a cow’s own natural immunity and strengthen her ability to defend against infection by a range of mastitis pathogens - thus helping to protect the cow against mastitis when she needs it most.”

Available in pre-filled, single-dose syringes, Imrestor is administered with two injections - one seven days prior to the anticipated date of calving and the other within 24 hours after calving - with neither injection requiring a withdrawal period.

Kingsley Baxendale, Ruminant Marketing Manager at Elanco Animal Health describes Imrestor as a revolutionary new approach to transition disease prevention; providing vets the opportunity to equip their farmers with a proactive solution that delivers.

“It can be extremely frustrating for vets to see their dairy farmers struggling with the stress and hassle of dealing with increased numbers of sick cows during calving; they have enough to deal with at the moment. We’re delighted that Imrestor can provide vets with a tool to help decrease the negative consequences associated with immune-related diseases like mastitis and maximise their herds’ lactation potential.”

This genuinely is a new tool in the animal health tool kit. For more information on this exciting new product go to our website www.willowsfarmvets.co.uk. Speak to your vet for more detail on how it can be used to reduce fresh cow disease on your farm.
Information coming from various disease surveillance centres indicates that so far this summer has been a good season for lungworm and that the risk remains high. This concurs with what the vets are seeing clinically on farm with plenty of cattle showing symptoms of lungworm. Remember that it’s not just cattle in their first grazing season that are at risk, we are seeing lungworm in adult cattle too. There are lots of products available for treating infected stock so speak to your regular vet or Mark Pass at Beeston Animal Health to find out what is most appropriate for your cattle.

The forecasts also indicate another strong challenge from liver fluke this year. Again it’s well worth speaking to your regular vet or Mark about fluke control strategies. There are lots of factors to consider when deciding how and when to treat for fluke so make sure you get the right advice for your sheep and cattle.

The BVDFree Scheme will be run on a voluntary basis until most of the cattle industry is covered by the Scheme, when a solid case can be presented to the Government for collaboration on the introduction of compulsory measures.

BVDFree England will work in cooperation with the cattle industries in Scotland, Wales, Ireland and Northern Ireland to eradicate BVD from the islands of Great Britain and Ireland.

More information is available from bvdfree.org.uk