PNEUMONIA CONTROL

Respiratory disease in youngstock is one of the classic health issues we see every year across the practice. Typically problems peak mid-winter just after Christmas and, thanks to bust schedules and many other things to occupy the mind, by this time of year we have forgotten all about the problems of last winter. The result is that we tend not to change any of the risk factors and end up with the same disease scenario.

Clinical respiratory disease is relatively easy to identify as animals look miserable, have runny noses and coughing, and aren’t particularly interested in eating. These animals get isolated and treated with anti-inflammatory medicines and antibiotics where required. We can calculate the cost of these sick animals quite easily as we know how much the treatment costs, how much extra work they produce for you, how long it takes them to recover, and how many don’t make it!

The bad news is that these obvious sick animals and their associated costs are just a small part of the cost of a respiratory disease outbreak. The biggest cost is in reduced growth rates across the whole group as they battle with the bugs and have reduced feed intakes for days or even weeks without looking sick enough to treat. The result is either delayed time to finishing for beef animals or delayed time to first calving in dairy animals, both of which costs you cash.

Now is the time for action if we want to avoid a repeat of last year’s issues. There are various options available to reduce the risk of respiratory disease but they require action before problems hit. The risk reduction strategy will be different on each farm depending on current management practices. Typically we look at things like:

- Colostrum policy
- Stocking density
- Air flow and ventilation
- Sourcing policy
- Group dynamics
- BVD status
- Vaccination policy

In reality most farms are sub optimal for several of the items listed above and some are more difficult and expensive to correct than others. The one area which can be consistently done well across all farms, regardless of management system, is vaccination. By using respiratory vaccines we can boost the animals’ immunity against the viruses, and in some cases bacteria, which commonly cause disease. Vaccination requires a bit of planning with your vet to ensure you are using the best vaccines for your system and to ensure they are administered at the correct time to give the best protection.

We are keen to review the level of young stock respiratory disease on your farm to identify ways to reduce the risk for next season. We can also review which medicines you used last year and ensure you have a good plan for this year. Speak to one of the vets to get more details on what is involved.
Flint and Denbigh Show

This year’s Flint and Denbigh show enjoyed an absolutely glorious August day! The combination of a beautiful location, good weather and top quality livestock meant that many of you came to enjoy a good day out across the border!

It was great to see so many clients enjoying success in the show ring and enjoying the event.

Congratulations to all the prize winners! Next stop for the Willows refreshments team is the Cheshire Ploughing Match, see you there!!

**Advances in calf pneumonia control**

*Join us on Wednesday 20th September at 7pm*

for an update on new options available for pneumonia control, including a new bacterial vaccine, Hipravovis Somni/Lkt

**SPEAKERS**

**SALLY DIXON** BVetMed MRCVS
Willows Veterinary Group
With her previous role, Sally had the opportunity to visit a large number of calf rearer and beef units across the UK. She will talk about the principles of calf pneumonia and approaches to control.

**COLIN LINDSAY** BVM&S MRCVS
Independent Bovine Consultant
Colin spent much of his career as a partner at Caponrées Vets based in Carlisle and has special interests in preventative medicine. He will share his experiences of pneumonia control in the North of England.

**VENUE - WATERSTONE SUITE, MACDONALD PORTAL HOTEL AND SPA**

If heading from Cotebrook towards Tarporley on the A49, on the brow of the hill turn left, signposted for the MacDonald Hotel Golf and Spa. The venue is on your immediate left, signposted ‘The Premier Golf Course’, look for the Willows flags.

**A HOT BUFFET WILL BE PROVIDED**

**RSVP by 13th September** to Sally Earl on 01606 723200

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**JOIN US AT THE CHERSHIRE PLOUGHING MATCH**

Wednesday 27th September 9.00am – 5.00pm
Woods Tenement Farm
Pinfold lane, Plumley.
Use postcode WA16 0TW
ADMISSION £10
FREE ENTRY to children in full time education.
FREE PARKING

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**Hartford Office**
267 Chester Road, Hartford, Northwich, Cheshire CW8 1LP
Telephone: 01606 723200

**Alsager Office**
The Point, Crewe Road, Alsager, Stoke-on-Trent ST7 2GP
Telephone: 01606 723200

**Mold Office**
Unit 16, Mold Business Park, Wrexham Road, Mold, Flintshire CH7 1XP
Telephone: 01352 748525

**Hampton Vets**
Post Office Lane, Hampton Heath, Malpas SY14 8JQ
Telephone: 01948 820345

**Manor Court Vets**
Church St, Tarvin, Chester, Cheshire CH3 8EB
Telephone: 01829 740216

**Charter Farm Vets**
16 West Road, Congleton, Cheshire CW12 4ER
Telephone: 01260 291037