

Newsletter January 2021

FVSW Bulk Tank Monitoring Scheme

Eoghan McAlonan

When keeping dairy cows in the cattle dense areas of Somerset and East Devon, it is important to monitor levels of infectious diseases. We have been working with NML to bring affordable quarterly disease testing to our dairy farms. Regardless of who you milk record with, we can test your bulk tank quarterly to check the antibody levels of 5 key infectious disease:

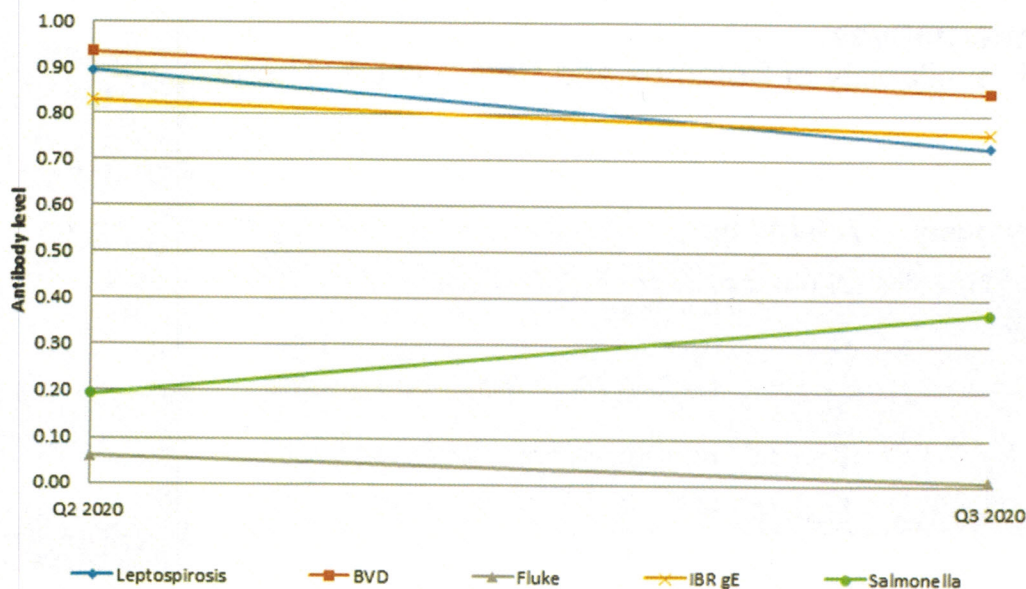
- BVD
- IBR
- Leptospirosis
- Salmonella
- Liver fluke



These 5 diseases are major causes of abortion/ infertility or impact health and production on our farms. Most dairy contracts stipulate monitoring these diseases, including **Tesco (TSDG)** and **ARLA** but we can organise the whole process for you. We'll report results quarterly in a graph similar to the one below and you'll get bespoke veterinary advice based on your results. With time, and more results, patterns will build up. A rising antibody level for a disease may indicate a problem surfacing on your farm which allows us to tackle it before it really hurts the farm.

This service cost £80 per year (£16 per disease or £4 per test). Contact Eoghan (eoghan.mcalonan@thefarmvets.co.uk) or the office (office@thefarmvets.co.uk) to join the scheme.

Antibody levels over time



Look after Yourself

January can be a difficult time both physically (it's cold!) and mentally. The short days and the end of the festive period can make it a dark time of year, particularly for those who work outdoors. It is important to take time to look after yourself.

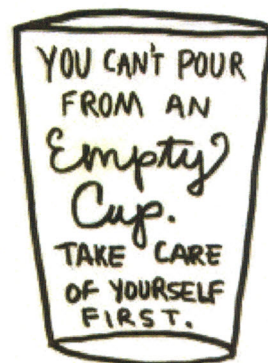
Starting a conversation about how someone is really feeling can make a massive difference and be a start on the road to recovery. There are number of organisations that can help:

- Farming Community Network Tel. 03000 111 999, help@fcn.org.uk
- RABI Tel. 0808 281 9490
- Samaritans, Tel. 116123, jo@samaritans.org.

If you feel you or someone else is at immediate risk, then dial 999 and ask to speak to the police.

Mind (Mental health and Wellbeing Support and information) 0300 123 3393 or text 86463.

Also, vets are never so busy that we cannot stop and have a chat for a few minutes, we are not mental health professionals, but we can lend a friendly, understanding and compassionate ear.



Rotavec Corona and Betamox

Art McAlonan

Rotavec Corona - Longer shelf life:

Provided you keep the Rotavec vaccine clean and refrigerated between uses, Rotavec's shelf life has increased from 8 hours to 28 days. This will really help with flexibility in injecting your pregnant cows.

Betamox issues and alternatives:

There is a big issue with availability of Betamox and Betamox LA. These are the alternatives:

Type of farm	Used previously	Alternative
Dairy	Betamox (24hr Milk Withdrawal)	Duphamox (24hr Milk Withdrawal) *IN SHORT SUPPLY* Or Synulox Injection (60hr Milk Withdrawal) Or Ceporex Injection (Nil milk withdrawal)
Beef/Sheep	Betamox LA	Trymox LA

