

Newsletter February 2021

Easier BVD Control with Bovela

Eoghan McAlonan

Bovine viral diarrhoea virus (BVDV) is one of the most prevalent and economically important pathogens of cattle worldwide. In Ireland, Animal Health Ireland (AHI - the organisation implementing the national eradication programme) has estimated the return on investment for eradicating BVD to be £10 gained for every £1 spent.

Clinical Signs

BVDV infection has a wide range of clinical signs including fertility issues, milk drop, pyrexia, diarrhoea and foetal infection. However, clinical signs are frequently mild and infection very hard to spot.

Foetal infection is of most consequence as this can result in the birth of a persistently infected (PI) calf. The effects of foetal infection with BVDV are dependent upon the stage of gestation at which the dam suffers acute infection and include infertility, abortion and birth of abnormal calves.

PI (Persistently Infected) animals are the most important source of the virus, continuously excreting a viral load one thousand times greater than transiently (temporary) infected animals.

Eradication and Control

The mainstay of eradication is the identification and removal of persistently infected animals (PIs). Re-infection is then prevented by vaccination and high levels of biosecurity, supported by continuing routine surveillance. Many of our farms were very successful in removing PI calves using the BVD “Stamp it out” scheme.

Vaccination against BVD

BVD vaccination rates in the UK vary between around 40 to 80% and vaccination has traditionally been through use of inactivated vaccines against BVDV 1 (**Bovilis BVD**). These vaccines provided a level of immunity that has allowed farmers to get on top of BVD in many herds but required strict injecting schedules and double dosing in the first year. BVD control has moved on.

Bovela is a revolutionary BVD vaccine. It harnesses the immunity produced in response to natural infection, without the side effects of natural infection.

The strong immune response to vaccination with **Bovela** means that only one injection is needed as a primary course, with a booster 12 months later.

The Vets at FVSW now recommend using Bovela. Its efficacy following a single dose ensures more cattle are effectively and easily vaccinated successfully. All breeding cattle can be vaccinated once per year, on the same day, to ensure the whole herd is always protected. Allied to removing PI calves with “Tag and Test”; BVD control has never been easier.



BOVELA

CHECS TB Accreditation

Cormac White

Many of you will have recently signed up to become CHECS TB Accredited. This is a belt and braces approach to TB Biosecurity which demonstrates additional measures being undertaken and thus you will **NOT** be required to undertake 6 monthly Whole Herd TB Tests that are due to be introduced shortly by APHA. As a matter of clarity, we are providing a reminder of the most significant measures of this scheme below:

- Isolating and post-movement testing any purchased cattle 60-120 days following arrival on farm. It is your responsibility to arrange for a post-movement test of purchased cattle to be undertaken as per the scheme by contacting us to inform us as you would normally with a pre-movement test.
- A TB Herd Health Plan in place to be reviewed with a Vet annually and signed by the Vet.

New Mycoplasma Vaccine

Art McAlonan

Mycoplasma pneumonia in calves has been plaguing us all for years - pneumonia with one ear down. Now there may be light at the end of the tunnel. Myco-B One Shot is a new vaccine for these calves. It is an import requiring a special license.

When we are aware of a new product, we don't always know how effective it can be. For us it's a balancing act between introducing it to our clients ASAP and waiting to hear of its effectiveness from other users. Reports suggest Myco-B One Shot can be very effective.

As this is an import, please register an interest with Art if you would like to be included.



Important Rotavec Corona Clarification

Rotavec Corona Vaccine can only be used **twice**, i.e. open it, use it, refrigerate it, use it again and discard. Ring **Art** if you are confused.



New Calf Scour Product

New Calf scour product available exclusive to FVSW

We have successfully trialed **AgriCure Calf Electro Power** on our farms. It is a high energy and triple action electrolyte supplement for calves, available as a powder to mix with warm water twice daily, or a paste. It should be fed in addition to milk feeds.

These electrolytes have been designed to:

- Support rehydration
- Support the immune system

Support gut recovery

Calf Electro Power is formulated from a concentration of:

- Sodium chloride
- Potassium chloride
- Mono Potassium chloride
- Glucose
- Threonine
- Sodium citrate



To be used during periods of, or recovery from digestive disturbances (diarrhoea/calf scour). To support the stabilisation of water and electrolyte balance in calves.

It can also be used as a preventative in times of stress such as transport, vaccinations, dehorning, extreme inclement weather changes, or times when there is increased risk of nutritional scour.

The sachets are competitively priced at £1.65

Each syringe is useful for beef calves still suckling and is £3.95

Well Bred Border Collie Puppy for Sale

If you are interested, please phone 07891720565.

