



Winter Update

2021

## Welcome to the Winter edition...

"After the previous 2 years' challenging conditions, we have all been thankful for a dry autumn and an extended grazing period with your livestock now hopefully in good condition for the winter months. In this edition there are updates on some of the major infectious diseases of cattle and sheep and their eradication schemes. If any 'bells are ringing' or if you would like further details please give the office a call, especially whilst your stock are housed.

"On a final note, after 17 years with Rutland Veterinary Centre, in various roles across both farm and small animal, Kirstie Griffiths is now moving on. I know she will be missed by both clients and staff and I would like to say a big thank you for her hard work and dedication and wish her the very best of luck for an exciting new chapter in her life.

"I hope you all have a great Christmas and New Year!"

**Max Hardy**  
BVSc MRCVS

Director of Farm Veterinary Solutions



## Managing Sheep Scab

Sheep scab is a highly contagious disease caused by the mite *Psoroptes ovis*. In 1952 scab was eradicated in the UK but was reintroduced in the early 1970s. Sheep dipping became compulsory until 1992 when complete eradication had failed and disease control was deregulated. Since then, there has been an exponential rise in the number of cases of sheep scab in the UK. It is a legal requirement in England and Wales to treat infected sheep as well as the rest of the flock.

Scab can commonly be mistaken for lice as both display similar symptoms. They may be present at the same time and can be identified by skin scrapes or blood tests. The clinical signs of scab include: rubbing; nibbling; restlessness; wool loss; condition loss; and seizures. These symptoms are caused by an allergic reaction to the mite's faeces and not the mite itself.

Scab is spread by direct contact and adult mites can live in the environment for up to 16-18 days. Upon infection, mite numbers remain low for several weeks, with a single egg laid per mite every 1-2 days. The number of mites generally peaks after 6-7 weeks and in many cases, significant clinical signs may not be displayed for up to 2 months after initial infection.

Treatment for *Psoroptes ovis* involves plunge dipping or using injectable parasiticides. A summary of these is given in the table. (Right)

A person who performs plunge dipping must hold a certificate of competence. Contract dippers provide this service and are widely available. Unlike most injectable products which take up to 7 days to kill mites, dipping kills the mites within 2 days and washes away the mite's faeces, thus providing a faster resolution of symptoms.

Active Ingredient	Administration	Withdrawal Period	Duration of Activity	Other Ecto's Treated	Clean Pasture?
Diazinon (Paracide)	Plunge dip	70 days	<4 weeks	Lice, Ticks, Blowfly, Keds	No
Diazinon (Gold Fleece)	Plunge dip	49 days	<4 weeks	Lice, Ticks, Blowfly, Keds	No
Ivermectin	SC Injection. Repeat in 7 days	42 days	-	Nasal bots	Yes— After the first dose.
Doramectin	IM Injection.	70 days	-	Nasal bots	Yes
Moxidectin 1%	SC Injection. Repeat in 7 days	70 days	28 days	Nasal bots	No
Moxidectin 2%	SC Injection	104 days	60 days	Nasal bots	No

The incidence of scab resistance to injectable parasiticides is rising and so treatment protocols must be followed. All sheep in the group must be treated and dosed to the heaviest animal. Moxidectin 2% is at the greatest risk for resistance in scab and worms due to its longer duration of activity. Correct diagnosis is essential if they are to be used.

To prevent introduction of sheep scab on farm, quarantine new sheep on farm for at least 3 weeks and ideally blood test at the end of this period. Ensure good cleaning and disinfection and biosecurity from neighbouring flocks. There is even the possibility of a vaccine appearing in the next few years!

Do not plunge dip sheep within 14 days of administering a yellow wormer

Clean pasture = no sheep for at least 19 days

Do not use Moxidectin 1% in sheep that have ever been vaccinated with Footvax.



**Sam Hailes**  
BA VetMB MRCVS





# Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD)



BVD is a disease caused by a complex virus which is unfortunately still widespread throughout the UK. In endemic herds the prevalence of infection can be high but with variable clinical findings dependant on the immune status of the animals. Signs range from:

- Inapparent of subclinical infection with no obvious signs.
- Acute mucosal disease - always fatal.
- Reproductive failure and congenital neonatal diseases.
- Reduction of calf immunity leading to secondary losses.



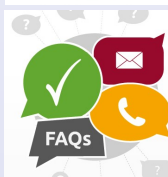
Transplacental infection of the foetus before 90-120 days pregnancy induces specific immune tolerance. Those animals are then born persistently infected and will shed the virus for life, infecting others whilst testing antibody negative. Calves born from PI mothers are always persistently infected. Infection after 90-120 days pregnancy will not produce persistently infected offspring as these animals will have antibody to BVD. However, there will be an increased risk of abortion or congenital abnormalities such as cataracts.

## BVD Testing



Diagnosis can be confirmed on virus isolation from blood and tissues in young animals or by screening groups of young cattle (9-18 months) for antibodies.

As BVD costs the cattle industry an estimated £25-£61m annually, the *BVDFree England* scheme has been developed to help farmers assess their herd status, eliminate the virus from the cattle industry and provide confidence and traceability when buying and selling animals. See <http://bvdfree.org.uk/> for more information or to sign up for the scheme.



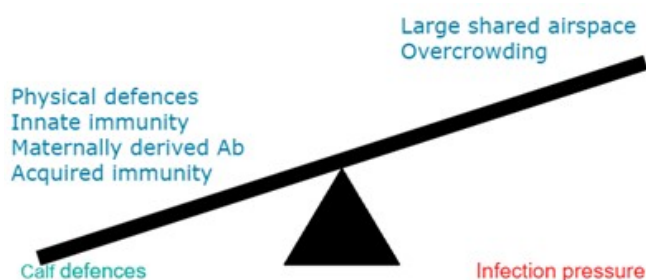
**Sign up to BVDFree today** and gain all the **advice and support** in testing your herd

*Following the changes to Red Tractor Farm Assurance standards on 1st November 2021, it is now a requirement for beef farms to have a plan to eradicate BVD which must be documented in the health plan and implemented.*

**Maria Navas**  
MRCVS



## Dairy Calf Pneumonia - It's a Balancing Act



Control of pneumonia in dairy calves is a balancing act which involves stacking the odds in your favour whenever you can!

On one side—against you—are infection pressures such as: overcrowding; mixing calves of different ages or from different sources; and large cold, shared air spaces. On your side are the calf defences such as: maternally derived antibodies from colostrum; vaccinations; good nutrition and environment; and reduced stress. Within this balancing act you want the scales to tip in your favour and this ideally needs to be tackled from both sides. Aim to increase the calf defences and reduce the infection pressures.

### Increasing Defences:

- ◆ Good quality colostrum consumed by the calf quickly and cleanly. Calves should receive 10% of their body weight in colostrum within the first few hours of life.
- ◆ Vaccination - intranasal and/or injectable depending on your farms management systems, known pathogens on farm and veterinary advice.
- ◆ Giving quality feed, milk or replacer, hard feed and straw for rumen development.

### Reducing Pressures:

- ◆ Correct stocking density
- ◆ Keep calves in the same or similar age groups.
- ◆ Do not mix bought in stock with home bred animals. Keep them in separate barns and without a shared airspace.
- ◆ Ventilated spaces with protection from cold drafts and rain.



**Gemma Barnes**  
BVM BVS MRCVS



### Christmas Opening Times

*Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from everyone at FVS.*

**Christmas Eve (24th): 8:30am-1pm**

**Christmas Day (25th): EMERGENCIES ONLY**

**Boxing Day (26th): EMERGENCIES ONLY**

**Monday 27th December: EMERGENCIES ONLY**

**Tuesday 28th December: EMERGENCIES ONLY**

**Wednesday 29th December: 8:30am-5pm**

**Thursday 30th December: 8:30am-5pm**

**Friday 31st December: 8:30am-1pm**

**Saturday 1st January: EMERGENCIES ONLY**

**Sunday 2nd January: EMERGENCIES ONLY**

**Monday 3rd January: EMERGENCIES ONLY**

**Tuesday 4th January: 8:30am-5pm**



# Protecting your Future Yields - IBR



Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis (IBR) is a hidden disease in many beef and dairy herds and one that can prove costly. It is estimated that around 75% of UK dairy herds have at least one IBR positive animal. These IBR carrier animals (latent carriers) are the source of the virus in IBR outbreaks. Although latent carriers can appear healthy within a herd, the underlying cost of IBR is significant. Research on Irish dairy farms has indicated that endemic IBR (as opposed to an outbreak of IBR) negatively impacts milk yield with cows in uninfected herds yielding 250.9 litres per lactation more than cows in infected herds. Therefore, controlling IBR doesn't only help to avoid unpredictable disease outbreaks, but is also an aid to maximise production.

## What causes IBR?

IBR is caused by Bovine Herpes Virus 1 (BoHV1).



**Primary infection** occurs when a naïve animal is exposed to the IBR virus through the nose or mouth following direct contact with an animal shedding the virus, or indirectly via fomites or airborne transmission and is commonly associated with clinical signs of acute IBR disease which range from mild to severe. As IBR is caused by a herpes virus, not dissimilar to the human cold sore virus, it means that once an animal has been infected, it will become a latent carrier for life. **Latent carriers** are a potential source of infection and can shed virus at times of stress (e.g. transport, calving, nutritional stress) resulting in disease in the in-contact (naïve) animals.

**Clinical signs** of IBR are variable ranging from subclinical disease to **high body temperature**, severe **upper respiratory tract disease** (the virus will target the eyes, nose and throat) and **reproductive disease** with symptoms of infertility and abortion. In adult dairy cows **sudden reduced milk production** can be a feature of the disease.

## How can you protect your herd from IBR?

Vaccination increases the overall immunity of the herd, and reduces shedding of virus from carrier animals, protecting the herd from a potential disease breakdown.

**Live IBR vaccines stimulate superior cell mediated immunity and are best used in naïve animals (e.g. calves and weanlings) to protect them from clinical disease.**

Live vaccines work rapidly and stimulate immunity most similarly to natural infection. This is because the virus is live (but altered to make it safe) so it can replicate in the body and therefore the body responds to it in a similar manner to the way it would to a natural infection. Studies have found that live vaccines are better at protecting naïve animals from clinical disease compared to inactivated ones.

**Inactivated IBR vaccines have been shown to stimulate a more robust humoral immunity or antibody response and are best used in latently infected animals (e.g. adult dairy cows) to stop or reduce viral shedding.**

Inactivated vaccines stimulate immunity in a slightly different way to the live vaccines and have been found to be better at reducing viral shedding in animals which have previously been infected and are carrying the virus (latently infected carrier animals). In a dairy herd with a high bulk milk antibody level, which suggests that a high proportion of the milking cows are already infected, use of an inactivated vaccine can better help to reduce the amount of virus these cows shed when under stress. This reduces the risk to any uninfected animals within the herd, or heifers entering the herd.

The combination of a live and inactivated vaccine stimulates the immune-response in different ways resulting in a more complete immune response which provides 12-months protection from a single booster dose given once a year.

## Rispoval Yearly IBR Vaccination

**Year 1:** Cattle over 3 months of age receive one dose of Rispoval IBR-Marker live (intramuscularly) followed by one dose of Rispoval IBR-Marker inactivated within 6 months. This dose of Rispoval IBR-Marker inactivated provides 1 year protection.

**Year 2:** A single yearly booster of Rispoval IBR-Marker inactivated should be given.

### Join the Tried and Trusted Programme

<https://www.zoetis.ie/rispoval-yearly-ibr-programme.aspx>

The Rispoval® Yearly IBR Programme has been tried and tested since 2012, with both vets and farmers nationwide confident that they can rely on Rispoval for IBR protection.

## THE RISPOVAL YEARLY IBR PROGRAMME



**MAY**

Calves over 3 months receive one dose of **Rispoval IBR Marker Live**

Into the muscle



**OCTOBER**

All\* animals receive yearly booster of **Rispoval IBR Marker Inactivated**

Under the skin

### Advantages of the Rispoval Yearly IBR programme

- \* Lifetime herd approach
- \* IBR protection for all animals from a young age
- \* Reduction of virus shedding from existing latent carriers
- \* Prevention of IBR abortion\*
- \* Labour saving as fewer vaccines required
- \* Vaccination of the entire herd in December is both convenient & effective
- \* Combining a live and an inactivated vaccine stimulates the immune response in different ways, resulting in a more complete immunity
- \* No need to assess herd seroprevalence. It simply suits all herds.

*\*In order to prevent abortion in female cattle that have only received their first single dose of Rispoval IBR-Marker live, the booster of Rispoval IBR-Marker Inactivated should be given no later than by the start of the second trimester of pregnancy.*

Article from Zoetis UK















**If you wish to discuss any of the topics raised in the Winter Update, please call the office on 01664 567481 option 2 to speak to one of our receptionists, SQPs or vets.**





# VPS Products– Winter Deals 2021



PRODUCT	USE	ADMINISTRATION	WITHDRAWAL	PRICE (ex VAT)
 <b>Enovex Pour-on</b>	Ivermectin pour on for control of adult and inhibited larval stage roundworms, mites and lice in cattle.	Pour-on 1ml per 10kg	Cattle Meat—28 days Milk— >60 days	2.5L—£28
 <b>Eprizero Pour-on</b>	Eprinomectin pour on for the control of adult and inhibited larval stage roundworm, mites and lice in cattle.	Pour-on 1ml per 10kg	Cattle Meat—10 days Milk—0 hours	2.5L—£120 5L—£190
 <b>Endospec SC 2.5%</b>	Albendazole (white) drench for control of roundworms, tapeworms and adult liver fluke in sheep.	Oral drench See pack info	Sheep Meat—4 days	2.5L—£35 10L—£70
 <b>Taurador Pour-on</b>	<i>Dectomax equivalent—</i> Doramectin pour on for control of roundworms, mites and lice in cattle for up to 5 weeks.	Pour-on 1ml per 10kg	Cattle Meat—35 days Milk—do not use	1L—£75 2.5L—£110 5L—£190
 <b>Noromectin 0.08% Drench</b>	Ivermectin (clear) drench for control of adult and inhibited larval roundworms in sheep.	Oral drench 1ml per 10kg	Sheep Meat—14 days Milk—do not use	1L—£15 2.5L—£31 5L—£48
 <b>Noromectin 1% Injection</b>	Ivermectin injection for the control of roundworms, mites and lice in cattle, sheep and pigs.	SC Injection Cattle: 1ml/50kg Sheep: 1ml/50kg Pigs: 1ml/33kg	Cattle Meat—49days Sheep Meat—42 days	50ml—£14 500ml—£35
 <b>Dectomax Injection</b>	Doramectin injection for the control of roundworms, mites and lice in cattle and sheep.	SC Injection Cattle: 1ml/50kg Sheep: 1ml/33kg	Sheep and Cattle Meat—70days Milk—do not use	200ml—£60
 <b>Bimectin Plus Injection</b>	Ivermectin and Clorsulon injection for the control of adult and inhibited larval stage roundworms, mites and lice, late immature and adult liver fluke in cattle.	Injection 1ml/50kg	Cattle Meat—66 days Milk—do not use (>60 days)	250ml—£56 500ml—£90
 <b>Closamectin Pour-on</b>	Ivermectin and Closantel pour-on for the control of adult and inhibited larval stage roundworms, mites and lice, late immature and adult liver fluke in cattle.	Pour-on 1ml/10kg	Cattle Meat—56 days Milk—do not use (>150days)	2.5L—£210 5L—£390
 <b>Endofluke 10%</b>	Triclabendazole drench for the control of early immature to adult liver fluke in sheep and cattle.	Oral drench 1ml/10kg	Cattle Meat—56 days Sheep Meat—56 days	2.5L—£56 5L—£95
 <b>Solantel</b>	Closantel drench for control of late immature and adult liver fluke and haemonchus in sheep.	Oral drench 1ml/5kg	Sheep Meat—42 days	2.5L—£64 5L—£90
 <b>Footvax</b>	Dichelobacter vaccine for prevention of footrot in sheep.	SC Injection 1ml	Sheep Meat—0 days	50ml—£65 250ml—£250

*To place an order or for more information please call 01664 567481*

A member of



Emergency Contact: 01664 567481

**Farm Veterinary Solutions**

1-3 Kings Road, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire LE13 1QF  
 Elms Farm Industrial Estate, Bitteswell, Lutterworth LE17 4LR  
 Langton Garden Centre, Melton Road Market Harborough LE16 7TG  
 12a Ayston Road, Uppingham LE15 9RL  
**Farm Office: 01664 567481 option 2**  
**Lutterworth: 01455 248500**