



Forthcoming Events

Join us at

Anglesey Winter fair 12 & 13th November,

Dewi Jones, Boehringer Territory Manager on stand from 10.30am. **Give-aways and competitions.**

Moredun Livestock Health Roadshow 7th November, 7:30pm

Macclesfield Rugby Club, SK10 4AF

Moredun are hosting an evening talk on **cryptosporidiosis and Johne's disease** in Macclesfield as part of their Livestock Health Roadshow this year. Free to attend.

Vaccine Compliance

Vaccination is an important tool in the control of infectious disease. It can be considered as an insurance policy against breakdowns in biosecurity by helping to minimise the impact of a disease on farm. The decision to vaccinate often represents a significant investment, both financially and in time, to ensure farmers get value from this investment, it is essential that the vaccine is used correctly. Failure to do so may lead to disappointing results.

Several studies have highlighted that there are many areas of vaccine use that need improvement, and that the farm vet is seen as an important source of information when it comes to using vaccines.

Reviewing vaccine use and developing vaccination protocols is time well spent.

This can often highlight issues that may be impairing the effectiveness of the vaccines used.

Correct vaccine use

Timing of vaccination is the first hurdle. This involves giving a one- or two-dose primary course.

Sticking to the recommended interval between the doses in a two-dose primary course is essential as it allows the animal to develop immunity. Single-shot primary course vaccines such as Bovela help to simplify this, removing one of the variables in the equation.

Vaccine handling and storage can also have serious consequences on the efficacy of vaccination programmes.

Most vaccines require storage between 2 and 8 °C. Though most farmers store vaccines in a fridge, very few monitor the temperature.

Mixing and administration of the vaccine is yet another hurdle in vaccine compliance. Clean and appropriate equipment is essential for safe administration. Mixing spikes and multidose vaccinators are useful in simplifying this process, plus a good stock of appropriately sized needles which should be changed frequently. Making sure that the dose and route of administration are highlighted in the vaccination protocol should help to reduce mistakes.

Attention to detail

Choose appropriate bottle sizes for the number of animals to be vaccinated. It can be tempting to keep opened bottles of vaccine if there are doses left, but this can reduce the efficacy of the vaccine and also increases the risk of bacterial contamination. Make sure that you draw attention to the "in-use shelf life", which in the case of Bovela is eight hours after reconstitution, meaning that you have a working day to use a mixed bottle.

Guidelines for putting together vaccination protocols can be found at www.ruma.org.uk.

AHDB Dairy has produced a video showing best practice for vaccination - www.dairy.ahdb.org.uk.

Herd protection made simple





Control RINGWORM after housing

As the winter sets in housed growing calves and cattle become more susceptible to common skin diseases such as ringworm, particularly if it's wet.

Ringworm is a superficial fungal skin infection of all animals (including humans) that occurs mainly in calves 2-8 months of age. It can cause continual irritation, which distracts affected animals from feeding and if cattle are in close contact the condition will spread easily. It shows up as grey/white circular skin lesions that typically appear around the eyes, head, muzzle, neck and trunk.

Ringworm is certainly unsightly and unwanted for pedigree producers showing cattle and it causes permanent hide damage. It can also check dairy youngstock growth rates and slow beef production throughput significantly; in one recent French study affected calves were up to 12.9kg lighter after a 155-day finishing period¹.

Ringworm is a self-limiting disease so it's tempting to do nothing, but affected cattle will remain infectious to transmit the skin condition to other animals. Spores from the *Trichophyton verrucosum* causal fungus also remain viable for years in cattle housing and can be difficult to eradicate even with thorough disinfection. Consequently, it is well worth controlling ringworm, particularly when you appreciate that it can also infect people working with housed cattle over the winter.

Vaccination provides an effective disease control option. Bovilis® Ringvac can be used both to prevent ringworm and treat the skin condition to shorten the recovery time in affected cattle. The vaccination course is two intra-muscular injections 10-14 days apart. Calves can be vaccinated from two weeks of age and should be immune to ringworm three weeks after the second injection. Farmer feedback suggests that correctly vaccinated cattle are protected for life without the need for boosters.

If you do see signs of ringworm this winter please contact the practice for advice as soon as possible.

Reference:

1. Martineau C., Le Goic D., Tessier V., Le Nouvel C. MSD Animal Health trial; data on file.

Use medicines responsibly. For more information visit: www.noah.co.uk/responsible

BOVILIS® RINGVAC is a live vaccine containing viable microcondia of *Trichophyton verrucosum* strain LTF-130 per ml after reconstitution in the solvent provided. It is only available on prescription by a veterinary surgeon, from whom advice should be sought. For further information please contact the practice.