Calf Pneumonia — Prevention Starts Now!

Pneumonia continues to be one of the major causes of economic loss for the cattle industry - an outbreak of pneumonia is believed to cost between £50 and £100 per affected animal.

In the short term, pneumonia leads to decreased production, higher levels of mortality and increased veterinary and labour costs. The long-term impact can as be equally damaging, as the inevitable lung damage that occurs in those that do recover will have a negative impact on daily live weigh gains — this means a longer finishing time (or an increase in the age at first calving for those rearing replacements).

Vaccination is a very useful tool in the management and prevention of calf pneumonia. However there are many different vaccines on the market, and sometimes it can be difficult to know which one to choose. As a general rule, most vaccination courses must be completed in advance of the main risk period (housing). Discussing your situation with one of the practice vets is recommended.

We are pleased to be able to offer our clients good quality vaccines at competitive rates (see overleaf).

**RISPOVAL 4**— protection against RS, PI3, IBR and BVD*

This *inactivated* vaccine requires 2 injections to be given 3-4 weeks apart. It is intended for calves at least 3 months of age (it can be used in younger calves, but a 3rd dose will be needed). *Protection doesn't start until 2 weeks after the second injection.* It provides long, broad cover (against the 4 main viruses), but needs time to work - the vaccination course needs to be finished at least 2 weeks prior to the risk period, ie: housing.

* the BVD component of this vaccine will help reduce the immunosuppressing effect that BVD has, but will not help prevent introduction of BVD into a naive breeding herd (other vaccines are available for this, eg: Bovidec, Bovilis BVD).

**RISPOVAL RS + PI3 INTRANASAL** — protection against RS and PI3

This *live* vaccine can be used in calves from 9 days of age. Protection starts from 5-10 days after single vaccination and lasts for 12 weeks. Ideally, vaccination all animals housed together at the same time. This vaccine is useful when rapid protection is needed.

**TRACHERINE** — protection against IBR

This *live* vaccine is intended to use in animals over 10 wks old. Protection starts from 4 days and lasts for up to 6 months. It can be used as early as 3 weeks of age, but a second dose will be needed once 10 weeks old. Ideally, vaccine all animals housed together at the same time. This cost-effective vaccine should be considered essential by those buying in cattle.
Throughout the month of September the following pneumonia vaccines will be on special offer. Orders placed Monday-Thursday will be available for collection the following morning. In order to get these prices, vaccines need to be paid for at the time of collection. Please check numbers accurately as ordered vaccine cannot be returned.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vaccine</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RISPOVAL 4</td>
<td>(5 dose bottle)</td>
<td>£29.85+vat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RISPOVAL RS+PI3 I/N</td>
<td>(5 dose bottle)</td>
<td>£26.25+vat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRACHERINE (IBR)</td>
<td>(5 dose bottle)</td>
<td>£11.18+vat</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Finally, it must be remembered that whilst vaccination can go a long way towards controlling pneumonia, it will not guarantee freedom from the disease. As ever, good husbandry and housing (particularly ventilation) are essential and we recommend discussing these factors with one of the practice vets. We also plan to hold a farmer meeting on housing in early October — more news to follow.

**SureCalf and SureCalf Duo — Quality through vaccination**

SureCalf is a scheme that has been running since 2007, aiming to improve the health and welfare of calves passing through market by encouraging pre-sale vaccination using Rispoval 4.

This SureCalf 'PreVacc' scheme applies to the majority of calves sold in the autumn — calves over 3 months of age are vaccinated with 2 doses of Rispoval 4, given 2-8 weeks prior to sale. SureCalf PreVacc ensures calves are protected as they pass through market and prior to the winter housing risk period. Last autumn, three United Auction sales saw buyers pay a 12p/kg live-weight premium for SureCalf cattle over non-SureCalf (£36.47/head on average).

From 2012 a second option — SureCalf 'PostVacc' was introduced, allowing certification for calves sold in late winter, or spring time, after being housed. Calves over 3 months of age are vaccinated with 2 doses of Rispoval 4, given 2-8 weeks prior to winter housing at the farm of origin. They then receive a further dose of IBR vaccine (eg Tracherine) pre-sale.

This year, in recognition of the BVD eradication programme currently underway in Scotland, SureCalf DUO has been introduced for those wishing to participate but whose calves do not require the BVD component (as is in Rispoval 4).

For SureCalf DUO, calves are vaccinated 1 — 3 weeks prior to sale with a single dose of Rispoval RS + PI3 Intranasal (calves must be at least 9 days old at time of vaccination) and a single dose of Tracherine (calves must be at least 12 weeks old at time of vaccination).

Regardless of which scheme is used, sellers must register their animals at least 2 weeks prior to sale via www.surecalf.co.uk (or by calling the SureCalf helpline) and then receive personalised SureCalf certificates for their stock.