



Newsletter October 2018

Funding for BVD Control!

Seize the opportunity for BVD Control today

Funding has been announced by DEFRA coordinated by the Scottish Agricultural College for BVD control in England. This will involve funding for BVD planning and some testing as outlined below. This is a perfect opportunity to get a handle on BVD on your farm. Even if you are vaccinating this is an opportunity to assess current status and get a step ahead as BVDFree is likely to become a requirement in the near future with compulsory eradication programmes in place in many other neighbouring countries.



The Scheme is outlined below:

1. *Introductory Meeting.* Separate meetings for Beef and Dairy. This meeting will give an outline of the disease, the resulting costs both nationally and at farm level, and provide more details of the scheme.
2. *Farm Visit 1.* Those clients that do sign up will then receive a **100% funded** one to one on farm meeting with one of the practice vets. We will assess the specific risks of BVD on your farm and perform a check test to assess disease status. **The laboratory fees for this check test will be covered by the scheme funding.**
3. *Farm Visit 2.* The vet will return, again **100% funded**, to discuss the results of the check test and help you to formulate an action plan, which will involve elements of biosecurity, vaccination, ongoing surveillance and PI (BVD carrier) hunting should the lab results indicate active infection (for which there is limited additional funding for lab testing).
4. *Final Meeting.* Once all the delegate farmers have completed their vet farm visits and testing we will bring you together for another meeting to discuss the project and summarise our findings.

We would therefore ask those of you that have an interest in this funding, or would like to find out more, to contact any of our offices

Change to Saturday Office Opening Hours - North Petherton

Please note that from **1st October 2018**

Our North Petherton office will be open on Saturdays from 09:00-12:30



Calf Diphtheria

There are two forms of calf diphtheria.

The first is an acute oral (mouth) infection usually seen in calves under 3 months old. With this form the animal will likely appear otherwise normal but may have a foul smell coming from the mouth.



1st form

The second is a laryngeal (throat / voice box) infection, usually seen in older calves:

With this form the animals breathing will appear laboured and the calf will produce a loud 'roaring' sound as though it is breathing through a straw. This is because the abscess will be pressing on its windpipe and can be easily confused with pneumonia!

Both are caused by the bacteria *Fusobacterium necrophorum*, which also causes foul-in-the foot and liver abscesses in older cattle. The bacteria gets in through breaks in the skin usually caused by scratches from eating forage or trauma from putting tubes down their throats to bag them.



2nd form

Treatment is at least 7 days of Penicillin and 2-3 doses of Metacam. The laryngeal form is more resistant to treatment and may need a longer course with no guarantee of a complete cure.

Foot Trimming—What Treatment Really Works ?

When faced with a claw horn problem (white line disease, sole ulcer or sole haemorrhage) is it ok to just trim? Unfortunately not. The latest research tells us we need to do more if we want a better outcome. Cows that receive a painkiller injection (e.g. Metacam) recover much better. Cows that received a foot block also do better than just a trim. The cows that do best of all receive **a corrective trim, a foot block and a pain killer. Five weeks after treatment 95% of cows treated with a trim, block and painkiller were no longer lame.** Only 24% of cows that just received a trim were no longer lame.



FarmVets run regular foot trimming courses and refresher foot trimming sessions - contact any of our offices for more information.



Your local farm veterinary service

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