

# FARM News



NOVEMBER 2019

## Updates to Red Tractor Standards for Dairy Farmers



From this month Red Tractor have issued new standards for dairy farmers, key points to note are:

- Your health plan must be written in conjunction with your vet. It must also include farm protocols for calving procedures, lameness management, pain relief and use of shackles.
- You must be managing Johnes disease through implementation of the National Johnes Management Plan. Many of you will already have signed up to this last year; however you are required to undertake an annual review with your vet to ensure that you are implementing the best strategy for your farm. If you have not yet completed a review in 2019 then please get in touch with us as soon as possible to arrange this.
- BVD must be managed through an eradication programme such as BVD Free England or membership of a CHECS Accreditation Scheme.
- Your annual antibiotic review must include a review of any treatments that have been used off label and of any preventive treatments used.
- If cauterising paste is used to disbud calves then pain relief must be also be given.
- At least one person who is responsible for administering medicines must have undertaken training since October 2016 one week. Your vet must then review medicines and hold a certificate of competence/attendance.
- If you have an antibiotic bulk tank failure then you must inform your vet within use and make recommendations to prevent the issue from happening again.

### Treatment of Pneumonia

Cattle with pneumonia are dull, have a reduced appetite and a fever, they may also have discharge from their eyes and nose, a cough and rapid or noisy breathing. A high rectal temperature (fever) is often the first sign to appear and is strongly associated with pneumonia – pneumonia nearly always causes a high temperature, and a high temperature is most commonly caused by pneumonia. Where an outbreak of pneumonia is seen in a group of calves, checking their temperatures is the most reliable way of determining how many are affected. Speak to a vet for advice on the best way to treat a group outbreak in a responsible way. All animals with pneumonia should receive an *anti-inflammatory* (eg. Metacam) as well as antibiotics as this is a *key part of treatment*. In some cases the animal may become ill again 5-14 days after treatment – this is due to the fact that the compromised lungs have become reinfected, and it doesn't mean that the treatment didn't work.

**Speak to a vet for advice on re-treatment.**

### Calf Scour

The winter housing season is always when we see an increase in the incidence of calf scour. Both dairy and beef herds can find this challenging to manage at this time of year when housing is in constant use allowing pathogens to build up. Three of the commonest causes of scour in calves aged under 3 weeks are E. coli, rotavirus and coronavirus, all of which can result in rapid dehydration and death. As always prevention is far better than cure and there are several actions you can take to protect your calves:

- Ensure that calving areas and housing used by young calves are regularly cleaned out and kept well bedded.
- Be certain that every calf has received sufficient colostrum within 4 hours of birth. Even suckled beef calves frequently fail to achieve adequate passive transfer of antibodies through unsupervised suckling. If you are in any doubt about whether a calf has suckled then make sure it has- either by helping it to suckle, bottle feeding or tube feeding.
- Vaccination of your cows with Rotavec Corona/ Bovigen Scour between 3 and 12 weeks prior to calving will allow them to raise antibodies against E. coli, rotavirus and coronavirus. These are then transferred to the calf via colostrum enhancing its immunity and reducing the severity of any diarrhoea. The vaccine is completely reliant on calves receiving sufficient colostrum after

