

FARM News



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Vet Portfolio

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BVD IN YOUR HERD

Relying on the fact that all your BVD tissue tag samples of new-born calves are negative but not vaccinating your herd, is the same as setting the alarm on your house but not locking the door, whilst going on holidays!!!

The BVD eradication scheme in N. Ireland was introduced in 2016. The compulsory testing of all calves at tagging has allowed for the quick detection of PI (persistently infected) animals. The isolation and euthanasia of PI animals has brought about a decrease in the rate of natural immunity and hence the **even greater importance of BVD vaccination in the herd** to minimize the risk of a hugely detrimental BVD outbreak, through a TI (temporarily infected) animal, either purchased directly or purchased by a neighbour. TI animals can shed the BVD virus for up to 2 weeks so all purchased stock should be kept in isolation for a minimum of 2 weeks to minimize this possible risk. Animals bought at markets that are mixed with lots of other animals are at risk of being a TI.

Bovela BVD vaccine released in 2015, is a unique one-shot vaccine that can be used in all cattle, whether pregnant or not and in young calves, as young as three months of age as their natural maternal protection wears off. Bovela BVD gives over 12 months of a strong immune protection, and so the whole herd can be done in a particular month each year, when it is most convenient for your farm.

Update; Cattle that have not been tested for BVD will be prohibited from being sent to the factory from 1st Sept 2021. From the 1st Sept, DAERA has said it will take enforcement measures in respect of untested cattle moved in breach of the BVD Eradication Scheme Order 2016. It is an offence to move an untested animal or to have possession of an untested animal that has been moved in contravention of the order. This applies to farmers, market operators and factories.



Lameness in Sheep

Lameness in sheep is a problem for farmers as it has both major welfare and financial effects. Catching lameness early is vital in decreasing the amount of lame sheep and reducing recovery time.

CODD (Contagious Ovine Digital Dermatitis) has become a lot more common in recent years and represents another substantial infectious cause of lameness. It is often seen with a large outbreak initially, followed by a steady flow of lame sheep. The main differences compared to Foot Rot are the lack of smell, and lesions starting at the coronary band rather than at the toe. Isolation and prompt treatment being vital to controlling CODD.

Foot rot is an extremely painful disease and affected animals can lose weight rapidly. Sheep with foot rot are very lame, lie down for long periods and may not bear weight on the affected leg. There is swelling and moistening of the skin between the claws with infection spreading to separate the horn tissue of the sole and extend up the wall in neglected cases. There is a characteristic, foul-smelling discharge. The whole hoof capsule may be shed in severe cases and chronic infection leads to grossly misshapen and overgrown hooves.

Please speak to any of our vets for more advice about lameness in your flock.



Getting Autumn Calvers in Shape for Calving.

With the autumn calving season just around the corner remember that cows should be in a body condition score ideally of 2.5. Cows that have a body condition score of below 2 at calving, will be weaker at calving, produce poorer quality colostrum and can be slower to start cycling after calving. At this time of the year with a surplus of grass common, over fat cows (above 3.5) at calving will be more of an issue. Over conditioned cows at calving increases the risk of dystocia resulting in problems for both cow and calf. Cows that are too fat at calving can have many health problems such as retained placenta's, metritis, milk fever, ketosis, LDA's as well as lower milk production rates. Speak to any of our vets about body condition score in your herd.

Remember to vaccinate all cows with a scour prevention vaccine 12 – 3 weeks pre calving.



11 Church Street, Ballygawley BT70 2HA - 028 85567150

Opened Mon - Fri 08:30-18:00 | Sat 09:00-16:00 | Closed for Lunch 13:30-14:00

19 The Diamond, Pomeroy BT70 2QU - 028 87759358

Opened Mon - Fri 09:00-18:00 | Wed & Sat 09:00-13:00 | Closed for Lunch 13:00-14:00

Unit 5, Hamilton Park, Tamnamore BT71 6HW - 028 87726805

Opened Mon - Fri 09:00-17:30 | Sat 09:00-13:00 | Closed for Lunch 13:30-14:00

