

# FARM News

September 2021

## Vet Portfolio

Brian Keown  
Sean O'Neill  
Stephen Wilson  
Nigel Edwards  
Maciej Ligus  
Brigid King  
Ina Doherty  
Mike Reynolds  
Kerrie – Anne Ryan (SA)

### PNEUMONIA IN CALVES

Pneumonia can be caused by a range of pathogens including viruses, bacteria and mycoplasmas. Some of these pathogens live in the calf's respiratory tract without causing disease, but when the calf is stressed or immunocompromised they can become pathogenic, causing pneumonia. Environmental or management factors can cause stress and directly impact the susceptibility of calves to disease as well as its spread and volume.

The cost estimates of pneumonia vary between £43 per dairy calf and £82 per affected suckler calf, with costs rising significantly when re-treatments are required. This doesn't include the cost of loss of production caused when sick.

There are many factors that can lead to calves contracting pneumonia; sick animals not being isolated, mixing different age groups of calves, sudden changes in diet (e.g. weaning), exposure to draughts, overstocking, inadequate ventilation in housing, extremes of temperature, poor hygiene/drainage in bedding, poor access to feed, worm burden due to poor dosing or too many treatments at once i.e. weaning at the same time as squeezing causing stress.

Ways to help prevent pneumonia include good colostrum management, vaccination, low stocking density in pens, low housing humidity and dry bedding, good ventilation in sheds, avoiding extremes of temperature, good nutrition, separating age groups, good dosing, only doing one treatment at a time, all to help lower stress on calves.

Vaccinating calves to help prevent pneumonia has seen to be a great factor in reducing the numbers of sick calves.

Please contact any of our three practices or speak to one of our vets about pneumonia or vaccines.



### LUNGWORM IN CATTLE

We often see outbreaks of lungworm in grazing cattle throughout September. The first sign is coughing which is particularly noticeable if animals exert themselves; left untreated this will gradually worsen, animals may lose condition, display open mouth breathing, develop pneumonia and in some cases may even die. Lungworm can be prevented and treated by insuring cattle are wormed correctly with the right products.

Please ask any of our vets or staff about lung worm in cattle.



### SELECTIVE DRY COW THERAPY

Selective dry off is one way to help reduce the amount of antibiotics used on milk recording herds. This new approach to drying off cows can be achieved by selecting cows with a SCC of less than 100,000 during the three milk recordings prior to drying-off, and with no cases of mastitis during the 3 months prior to dry-off. The key to successfully selective dry off is milk recording monthly, excellent health recording for each case of mastitis on farm and correct hygiene at dry-off and in the post dry-off environment. If you would like to find out more about selective dry off please speak to any of our three practices.



### REMINDER TO QUARANTINE BOUGHT IN FLOCK REPLACEMENTS

It is very important to isolate all bought in stock to minimise the risk of introducing disease in your flock especially any resistant worms and scab. New animals should be quarantined for at least 3 weeks and given a quarantine dose to kill any internal or external parasites and if necessary started on vaccination programs for clostridial disease and pasteurella.



 **BVC FARM VETS**



**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