

REPLACEMENT STOCK RISK

The introduction of replacement stock with no lungworm immunity can severely destabilise a herd's balance of immunity. In such circumstances a much lower level of existing challenge is sufficient to cause an outbreak.

OFF FARM OR RESERVED PASTURE?

Dairy replacements are often reared on separate pasture, away from the main herd. Frequently this stock is subject to continuous worming, perhaps in both the first and second seasons. When the replacement group finally enters the main herd, they will not have developed immunity to husk and an outbreak is highly likely. This situation contrasts strongly with beef suckler herds, where calves are exposed to continuous low level challenge from their already immune adult companions.

VACCINATION WITH BOVILIS® HUSKVAC IS THE ONLY WAY TO ENSURE YOUR HERD GETS THE CONTROLLED CHALLENGE IT NEEDS TO BUILD UP IMMUNITY FROM LUNGWORM

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Bovilis Huskvac is an oral vaccine comprising an aqueous suspension of at least 1000 partially inactivated L3 *Dictyoaulus viviparus* larvae.

Withdrawal period: nil. Bovilis Huskvac is only available via your veterinary surgeon, from whom advice should be sought.

Further information is available. Legal category **POM-V**

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RISK FACTORS FOR CATTLE DEVELOPING HUSK

• FARM HISTORY

It has been suggested that a farm's history of lungworm outbreaks is a reliable indicator of the likely degree of future disease challenge, and it is certainly true that the larvae that can start the disease can survive a long time on pasture. Where there are cattle, there is likely to be lungworm.

• WARM, WET SUMMERS

Rain can disperse larvae in contaminated faeces, while warm, moist conditions keep infective larvae alive and encourage fungal growth. Larvae often make use of the fungus *Pilobolus* to disperse themselves on pasture. Generally, conditions which favour grass growth, also favour development of the infective larval stage which is why outbreaks peak in the late summer and early autumn.

• UNSUITABLE WORMER STRATEGIES

Continuous acting wormers can prevent the development of immunity to lungworm. The chart that follows, gives guidance on suitable strategies that should be considered.



PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS - USING VACCINES WITH WORMERS

WORMING STRATEGY

Herds which do not use any wormers in their first season; or use dose and move or irregular administration of short acting wormers

Herds using long-acting/continuous release wormers which give cover throughout the ENTIRE first grazing season

Herds using long-acting/continuous release wormers but where calves thereafter remain at pasture after the activity of the wormer has ended

Herds which use long-acting/continuous release wormers in the first AND second seasons at grass

Herds in which replacements are only turned out in their second season

VACCINATION STRATEGY

Administer a full course of vaccine prior to turnout. Do not turn onto clean pasture but onto pasture where there is an opportunity for exposure to natural infection

Administer a full course of vaccine prior to turnout in the second season

Give a full course of vaccination prior to first season at least two weeks before worming. In areas of high lungworm risk give single booster dose prior to turnout in second season.

Seriously review such a policy as it can severely compromise lungworm immunity. If this is not possible, consider a full course of vaccine prior to entry into the milking herd

Administer a full course of vaccine prior to turnout

Note: When choosing a worming strategy for use after vaccination, a product that allows "leakage" or gaps in its cover is to be preferred, as this allows natural challenge to boost the level of immunity already gained from the vaccine.

Please note, however, that pulsed wormers only permit challenge if worms happen to be prevalent during the gaps in their activity.