

PREVENTATIVE APPROACH AGAINST BVD, IBR AND LEPTOSPIROSIS UNDERPINS HIGH HEALTH STATUS

For Powys milk producer Robert Pryce-Jones, taking a proactive and preventative approach to herd health is top priority.

This means being aware of disease threats through diagnostic testing, including for Bovine Viral Diarrhoea Virus (BVD), Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis Virus (IBR) and leptospirosis. It also involves maintaining the highest levels of biosecurity, and sticking to vaccination protocols that help to provide protection for the highest risk periods.

It is a strategy that is helping to keep disease and treatment



All replacements are reared on the farm to calve at two years of age

costs in the 200-cow herd to a minimum, but - as Robert is quick to point out - there remains no room for complacency at any level.

"Despite everything that we are doing, the reality is that we are only ever containing the disease threats," he explains. "It is important to remain vigilant and to ensure all the vaccines are applied correctly at the right times."

The Holstein Friesian herd at Buttington Old Hall, Welshpool, maintains an impressive 10,100 litres of milk sold per cow per year, at 4.29% butterfat and 3.15% protein, with all replacements reared on the farm to calve at two years of age.

The preventative healthcare approach starts with ensuring all newborn calves receive 2½ litres of their own dam's colostrum within six hours, to supplement suckled milk, and continues by heading off the pneumonia threat with vaccination at a suitably early stage.

Thereafter, the list of potential challenges is a long one, but by working strategically with Geoff



Taking a proactive and planned approach to herd health is the key to containing disease threats against BVD, IBR and leptospirosis, say Robert Pryce Jones (left) and his vet Geoff Lloyd.

Lloyd of Camlas Farm Vets, and sticking rigorously to a planned vaccination calendar, the system is working.

"It's important to identify the threats and use the best preventative measures available at the right time," says Geoff.

"For example, we ensure the replacement heifers are vaccinated with Bovilis BVD before their service age, so they are protected before they are in calf. Where possible, we combine the Bovilis BVD and Bovilis IBR Marker Live boosters in a single syringe, to reduce

handling and save time.

"Vaccination against bovine leptospirosis is carried out with Leptavoid-H, as this protects against both UK strains of the disease. It is always done in the spring, before turnout, as the threat is greatest as stock go out to grass."

The policy of providing cover against all the main infectious cattle diseases is consistent with the scale of the threat. This is backed up with on-going diagnostics, a closed-herd policy, and double-fencing against all neighbouring farms.

The threat of BVD, IBR and Leptospirosis to GB dairy herds

- 64% of un-vaccinating dairy herds are positive for BVD¹
- Of the 741 BVD positive Dairy herds:¹
 - 63% were also positive for leptospirosis
 - 65% were also positive for IBR
- BVD, IBR and Leptospirosis can all cause serious underlying issues and economic losses, which may include reduced milk yield, infertility, abortion, respiratory disease and an increase in other conditions, such as calf pneumonia and scours
- Farm workers are also at risk of contracting Leptospirosis from infected cattle², which generally causes protracted flu-like symptoms but may also result in liver and kidney failure³

Convenient protection against multiple disease threats

It can sometimes be difficult to fit in several vaccines into one herd when having to give them all at separate times. Fortunately, help is at hand:

- The market-leading BVD and IBR vaccines, Bovilis BVD and Bovilis IBR Marker Live⁴, can be mixed together for booster doses, meaning that only one syringe and injection is needed*
- The UK's leading leptospirosis vaccine Leptavoid®-H⁴ is licensed to be given at the same time (but at separate sites) as Bovilis® BVD*

These license claims provide peace of mind that the combinations have been proven in terms of efficacy and safety, as well as help improve on-farm efficiency, by saving labour time and reducing cattle stress.

Bovilis® BVD

Leptavoid®-H

Bovilis® IBR Marker

Live

* Bovilis® BVD may be mixed with Bovilis® IBR Marker Live for use in cattle from 15 months of age (i.e. those that have previously been vaccinated separately with Bovilis® BVD and Bovilis® IBR Marker Live). Leptavoid®-H can be administered with Bovilis® BVD to animals of 8 month of age. The two vaccines should be administered at separate sites.

References:

1. DairyCheck January 2014 – October 2015.
2. Health and Safety Executive. (2015) Leptospirosis. [Online] Available from: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/zooses-data-sheets/leptospirosis.pdf> [accessed 16/11/15].
3. NHS Choices. (2015) Leptospirosis. [Online] Available from: <http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/leptospirosis/pages/introduction.aspx> [accessed 25/01/15].
4. GfK data MAT December 2015.

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Bovilis® BVD is an inactivated vaccine containing 50 EUISA units (EU) and inducing at least 4.6 log₂ VN units per dose of cytopathogenic BVD virus strain C86. Legal category [POM-V]. Bovilis® IBR Marker Live contains BHV-1 strain GK/D (gE-). Legal category [POM-V]. Available from your veterinary surgeon from whom advice should be sought. Leptavoid®-H is a vaccine containing Leptospira interrogans serovar hardjo 204 (inactivated). Legal category [POM-VPS]. Available from your veterinary surgeon or animal health supplier from whom advice should be sought. Bovilis® BVD, Leptavoid®-H and Bovilis® IBR Marker Live are the property of Intervet International B.V. or affiliated companies or licensors and are protected by copyrights, trademark and other intellectual property laws. For information regarding side effects, precautions, warnings and contra-indications please refer to the datasheet at www.noahcompendium.co.uk. Further information is available from MSD Animal Health, Walton Manor, Walton, Milton Keynes, MK7 7AJ • Tel: 01908 685 685 • vet-support-uk@merck.com ©2016 Intervet International B.V., also known as MSD Animal Health. All rights reserved.