

HEALTH AWARENESS UPDATE

BVD

If you are a spring calving herd, you may be considering using a BVD vaccine on your breeding stock shortly. BVD vaccines are most effective when administered before your cows go to the bull.

FIRST TIME VACCINATION

If you are vaccinating for the first time, it is important to remember your cows require two doses given around three weeks apart, depending on the vaccine you use.

If you are planning to put your cows to the bull at the start of May, it is recommended that you administer the vaccine at the start of April. This allows plenty of time for a second dose.

BVD vaccine is not a live vaccine so can be given at any time during pregnancy, so if you have some cows that have not yet calved, you can inject them too, as it is much easier to dose them all at the same date.

BOOSTER DOSES

If you have been using BVD vaccine on your cows in previous years, your cows will only require one annual booster dose. This should be administered within the time allowed by the manufacturer after the previous dose. This is usually 12 months, so if you vaccinated in April last year, you should vaccinate in April again this year.

Heifers being vaccinated for the first time will require the two doses as previously explained.

SWITCHING VACCINE

If you are switching vaccine, you do not need to start a vaccine programme all over again. Animals that have never been vaccinated (your next batch of bulling heifers for example) will require the initial two doses first.

Animals that have already had the initial two doses can be boosted with an alternative vaccine.

Herds that have been vaccinated for BVD can attain accreditation providing a minimum of two consecutive annual screens of young stock are clear. A screen is usually a random sample of 10 yearlings that have been intermingled since birth, either at grass or at housing. Farms that have more than one group of cattle require additional screens.

WHAT IS IBR?

Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis is caused by a herpes virus which results in acute upper respiratory tract disease among all ages of cattle, which can lead to fatal pneumonia.

It is most commonly seen when store cattle are housed in the autumn i.e. when stressed animals from different groups intermingle. It can also cause reduced fertility, abortion, milk drop and pustular inflammation of the vagina in older cattle. Infected animals usually shed the virus in secretions from the respiratory tract and eyes but IBR virus can also be spread via genital tract secretions including semen.

As IBR is a herpes virus, this means infected animals remain carriers for life and can shed the virus during periods of stress.

HOW DO I KNOW IF I HAVE IBR IN THE HERD?

Beef farms can randomly blood sample to find out if the disease is present.

To eradicate and achieve accreditation, individual blood samples from all cattle of 12 months of age and older must be tested. Positive animals should be removed from the herd. Once reactors have been removed, a second test is carried out 3 to 12 months later and repeated until a clear test is achieved. Two clear tests of all animals over 12 months of age are necessary to achieve accreditation. All unaccredited bought in cattle must be tested each year and careful bio security, including isolation, adhered to.

To ensure the herd stays clear of the disease, a boundary fence of 3 meters is required to prevent contact of neighbouring stock.

Animals can be vaccinated to control IBR but this does not prevent infected animals from spreading the virus when stressed. Marker vaccines are available and allow a blood test to differentiate antibodies due to natural infection or those induced by vaccination.

JOHNES UPDATE

Following the Johne's awareness campaign in which the Society has been involved, there is a reported increase in testing of herds in the last year and a reduction in reports of positive animals.

Finding positive animals before they become clinical, can save breeders hundreds of pounds and this saving is likely to cover the cost of the tests. You need to test to confirm the presence of the disease on the farm as positive animals have been found on farms with no clinical cases for decades.

OUR GRATEFUL THANKS GO TO THE HI HEALTH SCHEME FOR THIS INFORMATION UPDATE For details on the scheme see the advert in this issue.

HEALTH STATUS GUIDE

THE BRITISH SIMMENTAL CATTLE SOCIETY

HEALTH STATUS GUIDE
HERD

LOT

MEMBER OF CATTLE HEALTH SCHEME Y/N


NO. OF YEARS

MEMB. NO.

NAME OF SCHEME

Animal's Name

Ear Number

Disease	Herd Accredited	Individual Negative	Vaccinated
BVD	/ /	/ /	/ /
Lepto	/ /	/ /	/ /
IBR	/ /	/ /	/ /
TB 1	Date of last farm test / /	Date of pre-movement test / /	DISEASE ACCREDITED
Johne's	AccreditedYears		
Johne's Monitored			

I confirm that all blood tests have been undertaken by a "CHICS" Approved laboratory

Photocopy as necessary.

Signed (on behalf of owner):

Date / /

Signed (vendors vet)

Date / /

Following recent Council discussion, it was decided to encourage members to use the above Health Certificate but not to make this compulsory for all vendors. The Certificate is available from the office or online at www.britishsimmental.co.uk