



Tysul Vets Newsletter

April 2015

New BVD Vaccine – 'Bovela'

As many of you may have read in the farming press, there is a new BVD vaccine on the market. 'Bovela' has been produced by Boehringer and is available now. Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) is the most common viral disease affecting cattle in Europe and can cause huge but often un-noticed losses in both dairy and beef herds. Unfortunately the disease can continue to grumble in herds which are vaccinating if persistently infected animals are present or the vaccine is not being used correctly.

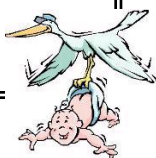
The main failings with the use of the currently available BVD vaccines are that farmers do not use them as recommended.

Most commonly:

- Farmers fail to get a primary course of the vaccine (2 doses, 4 weeks apart) into their heifers at least one month before they begin serving them. This is required to protect the foetus from becoming persistently infected if the heifer meets BVD during the subsequent pregnancy.
- Farmers who calve all year around only give their cattle a yearly booster. This is suitable for herds who implement a strict seasonal calving pattern or can give the booster at the correct time (at least one month before serving) but in other situations the vaccine should be given every 6 months.

News: Last month we had the cameras in from **S4C's Prynawn Da programme** filming the vets going about their day to day business, both on farm and at the practice. This should be airing early April, keep an eye out for us or get it on catch-up TV on S4C Clic. Thank you to all farms that allowed the crew on site and filming their animals.

Laura Howells, our **TB tester**, gave birth to a baby girl - Olivia Sophia on 18th March 2015. Congratulations!



The main benefits of the new BVD vaccine are that:

- Cattle only require **one dose** of Bovela for their **primary course** as the vaccine is a 'live vaccine' which stimulates a strong response from the immune system.
- Bovela provides protective **coverage for a year so only one annual booster is required**, although please remember that if the primary dose isn't given 3 weeks before the onset of pregnancy the foetus in that pregnancy may not be protected from becoming persistently infected.
- Bovela can be given from 3 months of age, making it convenient to fit in with your herds vaccination schedules.
- Bovela provides protective coverage against **BVD Type 1 and BVD Type 2**. BVD Type 2 is a more serious form of the disease, with higher death rates which is has recently caused disease outbreaks in Germany, Belgium and The Netherlands.

There are often concerns about the use of live vaccines but 'Bovela' has had two genes deleted making it extra safe. **If have you an interest in or any questions regarding the Bovela, please contact the surgery and speak to one of the vets.**

On-Farm Meeting - Mobility Scoring and foot-bathing

An enjoyable time was had at the Pugh family's farm 'Gwndwn' in Plwmp on Weds March 25th. Informative demonstrations on both mobility scoring and foot-baths were done on farm followed by lunch and talks at Ffostrasol Arms. If you would like an information pack from the day, please contact us on 01559 363318.

Diolch yn fawr i'r teulu Pugh.





Nadis Forecast:

This is a summary of the most recent parasite forecast which can be accessed at

www.nadis.org.uk/parasite-forecast.aspx

PARASITIC GASTROENTERITIS

- Now is the time to plan parasite control for this year's grazing season.
- Control measures should be formulated on an individual farm basis.
- "Safe Grazing" is defined pastures not grazed by sheep in the last year or re-seeded and it is important to forward plan to maximise the best use of safe grazing.
- The main aim of parasite control around lambing time is to minimise the future contamination of pastures with eggs passed from adult parasites in the gut of the ewes which present as a risk for lambs grazing that pasture.
- Egg output is known to be less in well fed ewes in good condition.
- If there is not enough safe grazing for all ewes and lambs then reserve the safe grazing for ewes with twins and put ewes nursing singles on the dirty pastures. The reasoning behind this being that less lambs will be subjected to the contaminated grazing.

Control Measures recommended for sheep on "safe grazing"

- The "peri-parturient rise" in ewes and knock-on contamination of pastures can be controlled by a short-acting anthelmintic given before ewes are turned out to graze.
- To avoid undue selection for anthelmintic resistance, SCOPS recommends targeting this treatment. Do not treat all ewes, so that some anthelmintic-susceptible parasites are passed onto the grazing. The following sheep should be targeted: yearling ewes, ewes nursing multiple lambs, ewes in poor body condition.

Sheep grazing contaminated pastures

- Ewes turned onto contaminated pastures should be treated with a persistent activity anthelmintic to reduce infection of the ewes with larvae from the pasture.

Nematodirus

- Nematodirus causes considerable production losses in young lambs grazing contaminated pasture.
- Plan ahead and use your safe grazing where possible to remove the risk of the disease.
- Follow the parasite forecast for April and May to gauge an idea of the risk.

PLAN AHEAD TO PREVENT LUNGWORM DISEASE IN CATTLE.

- Typically seen in grazing cattle from July onwards, plan now to prevent disease.
- There are several anthelmintic control strategies that can be used on set-stocked systems.
- Vaccination of cattle over two months old against lungworm requires two doses four weeks apart to be completed at least two weeks before turnout or weaning.
- Cattle with a history or respiratory disease should not be vaccinated against lungworm.

Please call to discuss any of the above points.

Farm Cats

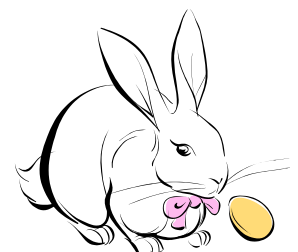
The RSPCA always need homes for outdoor feral/farm cats. They come neutered, vaccinated and chipped. Pictured are Lixie B&W and Suki tortie & white, 2 boys aged 1-2yrs semi-friendly outdoor cats.. Currently have 2 others - both female, same age called Jellico and Sheila.



If you could give any of these a home on the farm telephone Frances on 01239 810595 or see the website for more details.

rspca.org.uk/petsearch/cats/cardigan

Pasg Hapus -
Happy Easter



Tysul Vets 01559 363318