

## May 2012.

With this awful weather that we are currently experiencing are calf pens have been **very full from scouring calves**.

- We are seeing a lot of **crypto** in the calves up to 7 days of age.
  - In speaking to one of our clients who had an awful problem 2 years ago he now swears **by the 21 day rule**. In other words he only **keeps calves that are born within 3 weeks of each other together**. He believes this has been one of the best management changes he has ever done and has massively reduced his scouring.

On another farm the farmer reported calves being born to term but either **being born dead or dying just after birth**. There is also a **high incidence of scour** on this farm.

- On blood sampling the mothers we found the **copper and selenium levels where virtually nonexistent**.
- We have recommended the use of **Coselcure boluses**. These should be **administered 2 – 4 weeks prior to calving**. This way it benefits not only the mother with regards to **helping her cleanse and also produce a good quality egg for the next conception** but it also means the calf benefits via **placental and colostrum transfer**.

I was recently on a farm near Tamworth who milks 350+ cattle. **Overnight they had eliminated scours in their calves.....** it cost him **£6000** but the return in this is very quick. They bought a pasteurizer.

- When a cow calves they **collect her first milk and check its quality**. This is done very simply using a colostrum meter. They reported that a staggering **50% of colostrum was below the recommended standard**. The majority of this was in heifers as well as the higher yielders!!
  - This explains why we still see **low antibody levels** even when you are convinced the calf has had the required amount of colostrum.
  - Having checked the quality of colostrum the good stuff is pasteurized and **4 litres is immediately given to the calf by stomach tube**. The remaining **colostrum is frozen and fed to another calf** whose mother has below par colostrum. Simple but very effective.

### BVD testing.

Many of you have taken up the **offer of the blood sampling** for BVD. It has been funded through HCC and you are able to claim £4 / cow up to 100 cows. This ends in August!

- It is very simple to do and it allows you to get **half way to becoming BVD accredited**. So far we have found that the majority of farms are free of BVD which is excellent.
- It entails taking **6 blood samples from each group of cattle that has young-stock between 10 – 20 months of age**. From the majority of farms this means 6 samples from 2 groups (a heifer group and a bull group).
- If this **comes back negative for antibodies** it means there is either **zero or very low levels of BVD** in your herd.
- If it comes back **high** then we **need to blood sample all cows** on your farm to **hunt out the persistently infected animal**.
- 2 negative tests means you are **BVD accredited**.

### **What is the point of this?**

A **higher premium on the cattle** you sell at the market.

BVD is a **nasty disease** affecting all areas of your farm, from young stock causing increased pneumonia and scours to adults causing reduced fertility, increased mastitis etc.

### **Would we recommend stopping vaccination:**

**No. For 2 reasons.**

A) If you sell your cattle to a farm that has BVD **they may well crash** when they get there if they have not been covered.

B) If BVD is then introduced to your herd by a **neighbours animal breaking** in or you inadvertently buy it in then it may well **rip through your herd**.

#### **Eprinex:**

**Think before you use it.** It is the most **expensive wormer** as it doesn't have a milk withdrawal. Therefore only use it on animals that are **milking** and **not on dry cows** (unless within 7 days of calving) or on young stock.

There is a **£25 cash back** on the 2.5 and 5l packs bought between April and 30<sup>th</sup> June.

#### **Dogs trust campaign – Wales**

ANY dog owner with a **WELSH farm holding** number is eligible for a **free neuter** for their dogs (working or not). They are also eligible for a **free microchip at the same time**.

- There is a new sheep wormer called **startec**.
- This has **just been released**. Available only through the vets.
- It contains **yet another new group** and so there is no resistance to it yet.
- Talk to us at the vets about it.