

October 2010

Just where has this year gone? The nights are well and truly drawing in and the rains have definitely come. Unfortunately **housing** is just around the corner and so we need to **prepare for this**.

a. Get your **calves / youngstock up to date with the pneumonia vaccines**. There are 2 very good vaccines on the market.

- ❖ **Bovipast** which covers PI3, RSV and pasteurilla.
- ❖ **Rispoval 4** which covers BVD, PI3, RSV and IBR.

Ideally the animals should have both doses of **vaccine prior to housing** but at the very least make sure they have the first dose with the second being at housing.

- ❖ If in doubt about which one to use please contact us at the vets to discuss the best vaccine for you.

Vaccines will certainly help a lot to **reduce pneumonia** but there are other things that also need to be done.

1. **Ensure good colostrum at birth** (6 pints in 6 hours of life with a total of 6 litres in 24 hours. It sounds a lot but so many of the calves we treat have a low amount of colostrum.)
2. Keep the **bedding as dry as possible**. Pneumonia virus and bacteria loves the humid environment.
3. **Good ventilation**. A few minor modifications to the sheds can make huge impacts. We are only too keen to advice on any simple changes.
4. **Do not over stock the shed**.
5. **Try not to mix age groups**. (Larger lungs blow out lots of viruses and bacteria which cause big problems to little lungs). Of course in many situations this is not possible so think about the air flow and place the more susceptible animals at the start.
6. **Good nutrition** for the animals, a well fed animal is more unlikely to pick up disease.
7. Minimize big temperature changes.

b. On housing make sure your **youngstock are wormed and fluke treated**.

c. **Fluke treat the adults**. It is best to leave them inside a couple of weeks before treating as this allows the fluke to mature and so there is a far better kill rate. There are various products on the market including a very effective pour on (**Closamectin**). This is more expensive but makes life a lot easier for all concerned.

d. **Consider IBR vaccinating your adults**. This is the main time for transmission, if you have lapsed with your vaccination then get on with it!!!! If you are unsure if it causes disease on your farm then we can carry out a **free test by taking blood / milk and checking out the antibody status**. Please ask us about this.

Congratulations to:

1. **John Brookes**. He came runner up for the Framers Guardian young farmer award. A well deserved award, well done.
2. **John Yeomans**. He won our farmer quiz competition at the local shows (not bad for a Brummy!!!). He did have very stiff competition so well done to all who entered.

Talks: We are going to be holding a talk "**on feeding the pregnant cow**", the date is still to be finalised but please watch this space. This shall be relevant to both beef and dairy so your attendance will be much appreciated.

We are **very sorry about all the muck ups with regards to the vaccines this year**. It is very much out of our hands. We forward bought what was available but a few of ewe sheep guys went with out. We are really sorry.

Dairy cell check:

Average S.C.C	200	Average protein	3.2	Average % of cows with a SCC above 300 in different stages of lactation	
Average milk yield	9	Ave conception rate	38	0-99 days	11
Average milk / cow / yr	6.4			100 - 199 days	15
				200 + days	20