



IBR Pneumonia: Is Your Herd Protected?

Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis virus (IBR) often rears its ugly head at this time of year. This is because traditionally the stress of cows coming in from pasture can cause recurrence of previous infection. If an animal has been infected with IBR once it becomes a lifelong carrier; similar to coldsores in humans, carriers often show no clinical signs until times of stress (eg.group changes, around calving, etc.). At these points the virus can re-activate and importantly shedding of virus can occur, this can present as disease in this animal, or it can lead to the infection of other naïve animals in the herd.

The classic clinical signs are: a raised temperature, snotty noses and watery eyes, along with inappetance, milk drop and in some cases abortion. Heifers coming into the milking herd are at greatest risk of infection as they often don't encounter it until entering the adult milking herd. Vaccination reduces the likelihood of carrier animals shedding and reduces the amount of virus shed if the virus does re-activate. Whilst it does not completely stop shedding or entirely prevent spread, vaccinating non infected animals will help protect them from disease and prevent them from becoming another infected carrier within the herd.

Vaccination is the best defence in the face of an outbreak, with the intranasal route highly recommended. This is because the intranasal vaccine stimulates a different arm of the immune system from intramuscular vaccines which creates a protective immunity much faster (although this immunity is shorter lived). Some animals in the face of an outbreak may also need treated with an antibiotic and a Non-Steroidal Anti Inflammatory (NSAID) e.g. Metacam® or Finadyne®. Although IBR is a virus and antibiotics are not effective against viruses, the damage caused by the IBR virus can allow normal bacteria that live in the animal's respiratory system to become opportunistic pathogens, these can cause a very serious pneumonia which does require antibiotics, the most severe cases resulting in death.

There are a number of vaccines available for IBR. [Bovilis IBR marker live®](#) has a new licence meaning that animals should be vaccinated;

1. Once over the age of 3 months
2. A second time with the same vaccine 6 months later
3. Annually after this

It is important to ensure heifers are protected before entering the herd as they are the most vulnerable to IBR infection and if vaccinated before entering have much lower risk of becoming carrier animals responsible for future outbreaks.

Ceva Animal Health Ltd. have launched a new product called [Zeleris®](#). It is an antibiotic along with a NSAID and is licensed for treating pneumonia in cattle. Compared to some other antibiotics available it has better syringing characteristics (is easier to draw up and inject) and a simpler dose rate of 1ml per 10kg BW under the skin. If you would like to discuss if the use of IBR vaccination or if [Zeleris](#) is appropriate on your farm please contact MBM Vet Group.



West of Scotland Dairy Show 2017

As sponsors of the West of Scotland Dairy Show in Ayr, we were really pleased to see so many clients turning out this year making it a fantastic night. Our warmest congratulations to all our clients taking part, the competition was high and your hard work not only in preparing for the night, but in breeding and raising these fine examples of healthy dairy cows was clear. A special congratulations to Hugh Montgomery of Newlands Fm. who was awarded Dairy SuperCow for 'Kilmaurs Admiral Alicia', well done everyone 😊



National Johne's Management Plan (NJMP) for dairy herds

If your milk buyer subscribes to the NJMP you will need to have completed ALL the following actions by 31st October 2018:

- 1) Establish your herd's Johne's status (bulk milk testing not allowed)
- 2) A veterinary audit to assess the best options for control
- 3) A written control plan



These steps need to be carried out in conjunction with a **British Cattle Veterinary Association Certified Johne's trained vet**. There are 4 vets at MBM Veterinary Group who have this status; Niall, Mark, Michael & Natasha. Some herds will need more time spent on this than others depending on their disease status. For more detailed information see www.actionjohnesuk.org/

REPEAT BREEDERS:

CYCLING REGULARLY BUT FAILING TO HOLD?

One treatment gives **50% conception in repeat breeders** (cows not in calf after 3-services)

We have a licensed embryo store and frozen embryos for one step transfer seven days after standing oestrus to repeat breeder cows that are otherwise reproductively normal. Success rate in repeat breeders is expected to be around 50% for each transfer. Embryo transfer is thought to be more successful than AI in these cows because ovulation/fertilisation failure is eliminated and there is a stronger signal from the implanted embryo to the dam to prevent return to oestrus. This procedure is increasingly popular in the dairy industry for repeat breeders as the value of cows and replacements increases. We currently have pure bred Holstein embryos and Angus cross Holstein/Friesian embryos. (Please note the Holstein calves will be of commercial value only – they will not be eligible to be registered as pedigree animals).

If successful you can retain a good cow suited to the farm system, avoid the heifer replacement cost and save time on the calving interval (a cost of £3-5/day delay in conception is often quoted for higher yielding cows i.e £66-105 for a one cycle 21 day delay). The total cost of each transfer including embryo is £136.50 excluding visit fee.

Oestrus can be synchronised or naturally occurring

- Synchronisation adds to the cost of the programme.
- For natural heats depending on the day of occurrence transfer on day 7 may not be possible due to other commitments, weekends etc.

Repeat breeder recipients should be:

- ✓ Over 100 days calved
- ✓ Sufficient and rising body condition
- ✓ Free of detectable reproductive abnormalities (e.g. cysts, uterine infections)
- ✓ Free of other health issues (e.g. lameness, mastitis)
- ✓ Regularly showing oestrus with at least three natural heats since calving
- ✓ Clearly identified by freeze brand and / or large ear tag for accurate heat detection and our embryo transfer records



Procedure

1. **Good accurate heat detection.**
 - Record the date and time when cow first seen being mounted by another and standing.
2. Inseminate the cow to this oestrus with semen of a different breed to the embryo
3. **Embryo transfer SEVEN days after observed standing oestrus** above (+/- 24 hours at most, preferably 18 hours)
 - Recipient adequately restrained for comfortable transfer (not in a cubicle)

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