

## Bovine TB Cattle Vaccination Trial

APHA recently announced the start of clinical field trials for the CattleBCG vaccine together with a new TB DIVA (**D**etecting **I**nfected among **V**accinated **A**nimals) skin test in England. The company running these trials is Eville and Jones, who won a contract with APHA last December.

They will be conducted in two phases. The first phase started in a bTB-free farm in Hertfordshire, with the aim to establish the specificity and safety of the TB DIVA skin test (called DST-F). Further herds across England's Low Risk Area and Wales' Low TB Area will join them over the coming months.

The second phase will take place on farms in the High risk and Edge areas of England and High and Intermediate TB Areas of Wales. In this phase, Cattle BCG vaccine and the DST-F test will be tried in vaccinated animals to determine their safety and the specificity of the DIVA skin test.

The final step will be to apply for a Market Authorisation (MA), which has to be granted by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate, so the Cattle BCG and DST-F can be used in the UK.

If authorised, the use of the vaccine and DIVA test will represent a major step forward towards the control of the disease, avoiding culling thousands of animals and allowing vets to differentiate vaccinated animals from infected ones.

## Sustainable Worm Control in Sheep

You may have seen in the press a recent statement from the Sheep Veterinary Society, National Sheep Association, Sustainable Control of Parasites in Sheep (SCOPS) and the Moredun Institute, regarding the use of group 4 and 5 wormers in sheep. Group 4 (Monepantel) and 5 (Abamectin/Derquantel) are the newest classes of wormers available for use. Studies have shown up to 98% of farms have some level of anthelmintic resistance, though the reduced performance is not obvious unless monitoring growth rates closely. The only way to detect this resistance is by faecal testing post-treatment, ideally with a sample taken pre-treatment for comparison. With levels of resistance climbing, use of the new products offers an opportunity to prolong the effective life of the 'older' products.



We advise incorporating the new products as a one-off treatment in **lambs** in the latter part of the grazing season. This reduces the level of worms which have survived previous treatments and slows the development of resistance to those older products. The new groups should also form part of the quarantine treatments for incoming stock.

Lambs should be treated late in the season, when worm burdens have built up both on pasture and in the sheep. The burden should be confirmed by a pre-treatment worm egg count prior to treatment. There is no benefit using these products early in the season, and they should not be used for regular routine treatment as this can be extremely detrimental to the longevity of the products action on your farm. Resistance has been detected in the UK to these wormers because of inappropriate use. To avoid the generation of resistance, lambs should **not** be treated then moved to clean grazing – so-called 'dose and move' – as this rapidly generates resistance. Instead, lambs should be returned to dirty pasture for 5-7 days after treatment before moving.

**If you would like to discuss worm control, or set up a worming plan, give Matt a ring on 07816 440306 or via either office.**



## Farm Safety week

The third week of July was Farm Safety week.

<https://www.yellowwellies.org/category/farm-safetyweek/>

Many of us reading the daily blogs on different topics around health and safety on farm will have reflected on some near misses we may have had

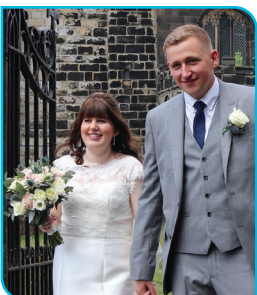
or sadly on incidents we know of where serious injuries or even deaths have occurred. Farming is one of the UK's most hazardous industries; accounting for 1% of workers but 20% of all worker fatalities (HSE).

20 farm workers and 1 member of the public (a 4 year old child) lost their lives on GB farms in 2019/2020 according to the latest HSE Fatal Injuries in Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing report.

The Yellow Wellies Farm Safety Foundation has some practical top tips for dealing with a wide range of hazards on farm and avoidance of risk taking. Please have a look!

## Congratulations!

Many of you will be aware already that Steph and Jon got married in the Lake District on 29th May. A few of team farm were able to travel up for the wedding and share the day with them.



More recently on 10th July, Vicky and Jack tied the knot in Mottram, and with fewer restrictions most of the farm team managed to make it to the reception for a great night. We are sure you will all want to wish them both congratulations next time you see them. They also managed to get perfect weather both days despite some very dodgy forecasts!



## Red Tractor Medicines Courses – Beef and Sheep

We have another Red Tractor compliant medicines course arranged for the 18th August. This course will satisfy the requirement for someone on farm to have undertaken training in the safe and effective use of medicines. Places are limited, so please contact Vicky on 01477 571000 to book yours. The current plan is for this to be held face-to-face at the Holly Tree office with social distancing measures, however this will be confirmed once you book your place.

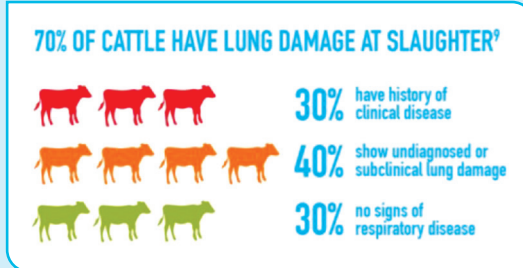
## Pneumonia

As we approach Autumn now is the time to consider any changes that may be required to reduce your incidence of calf pneumonia. We all like to blame the weather, but there are definitely ways to minimise the impact the cold and damp conditions can have on your calves.

### The cost of pneumonia

It is important to not only focus on the direct costs of a pneumonia outbreak but also the hidden costs. When assessing the whole picture, the value of vaccination usually becomes much clearer.

The cost of a single case of pneumonia is estimated at £43 in a dairy calf and £82 in a suckler calf. Direct costs in an outbreak include treatment (antibiotics and anti-inflammatory drugs), calf mortality, vet visits/time and any laboratory investigations. However, it is important not to forget the indirect costs which include labour, reduction in growth rates and reduced lifetime productivity. A single case of pneumonia at any point in a calf's life can reduce growth rates on average by 0.2kg/day meaning age at first calving or finishing can be greatly delayed.



### Clinical signs

Identifying respiratory disease early will have the biggest impact on treatment outcomes and future productivity of the animal. Generally respiratory disease starts as a viral infection which then allows the normal bacteria to multiply more rapidly leading to further disease and if signs are spotted early enough antibiotics may not be required. Various calf scoring charts exist to help decision making on whether to treat or not. Health scoring calves twice a week can have a huge impact on the longer-term health of the animals.

#### BRD scoring system for pre-weaned dairy calves



Clinical sign	Score if normal	Score if abnormal (any severity)
Eye discharge	0	2
Nasal discharge	0	4
Ear droop or head tilt	0	5
Cough	0 No cough	2 Spontaneous cough
Breathing	0 Normal	2 Rapid or difficult breathing
Temperature	0 <39.2°C	2 ≥39.2°C

Add scores for all clinical signs, if total score is ≥ 5, calf may be positive for BRD

## Prevention strategies

Prevention of pneumonia really is key as once the damage is done the lungs will never fully recover. Detailed below are some key areas to focus on when assessing your farm:

- Colostrum management
- Ventilation
- Stocking density
- Low humidity
- Steady temperature
- Good nutrition
- Stable groups of similar ages
- Good hygiene
- Minimising stress
- Vaccination

## Testing

Identifying exactly what is causing pneumonia outbreaks will determine the best prevention strategies on each farm. However, it is not just limited to taking nasal swabs or bloods to identify the virus/bacteria. Newer techniques such as lung ultrasound can identify animals not showing clinical signs and help to establish herd prevalence of respiratory disease on the farm. Testing airflow and humidity are two further options that can help to direct the best prevention strategies for each individual unit. Chatting to our vets can help to decide which will be the most cost effective route in different circumstances.

## Vaccination

There are a wide range of pneumonia vaccinations available on the market and it can sometimes feel like a minefield trying to navigate them all. Key considerations when choosing vaccines are timing of disease, age of calves affected and results of any previous testing. It is important to note that vaccination alone cannot stop all pneumonia outbreaks as in the face of high challenge the immune system will still become overwhelmed. Vaccines work best when used prior to disease challenge and as the onset of immunity varies from one vaccine to another it is important to consider the options well in advance.

There is definitely no standardised approach to respiratory disease in calves but as we rapidly approach autumn now is the best time to speak to one of our vets about past experiences and future planning.

### FARM OFFICES

**Lower Withington**  
The Barn, Holly Tree Farm, Holmes Chapel Road,  
Lower Withington, Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK11 9DT  
Tel: 01477 571000 Email: [hollytree@wmvets.co.uk](mailto:hollytree@wmvets.co.uk)

**Whaley Bridge Farm Branch**  
Block B, Ringstones Industrial Estate,  
Whaley Bridge, High Peak, Derbyshire, SK23 7PD  
Tel: 01663 732564

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