

CASTLE VETERINARY GROUP

Vaccination is a key tool in the control of Bovine Respiratory Disease

Bovine Respiratory Disease (BRD) represents a significant threat to calf health, welfare and farm profitability on both beef and dairy farms. Vaccination can be a valuable tool in preventing disease.

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Prevention is better – and certainly cheaper – than cure. Vaccination of young and growing animals is a cost-effective method to help prevent BRD, and alongside good housing conditions and husbandry practices can help keep your calves healthy.

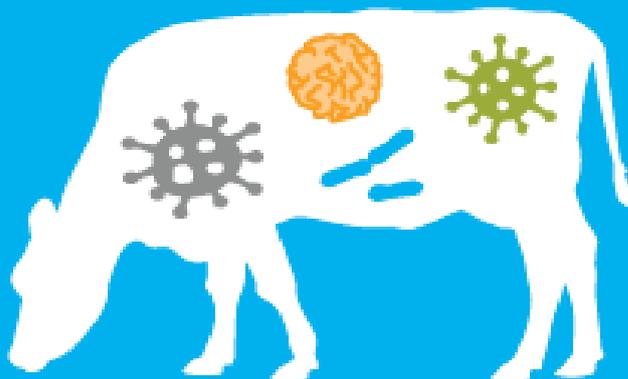
Merial Animal Health has launched a range of vaccines, BOVALTO® RESPI 3 and RESPI 4, to help dairy and beef farmers manage BRD.

Pathogen Challenge

Viruses and Bacteria

Resilience factors

Age
Body condition
Nutrition
Colostrum management
Immunocompetence
Natural exposure
Vaccination
Humoral response
Cell mediated immunity



Stress factors

Stocking density
Pooling of cattle
Mixing of ages
Marketing and transportation
Temperature
Humidity
Ventilation and air quality
Physiological stress

Bovine Respiratory Disease Complex

Getting the most out of vaccination

✓ **Vaccine selection:** A vaccine protocol should be developed with your vet and take into account the specific features and risks on your farm along with history of disease and diagnostic test results.

✓ **Calf health status:** Resilience to disease and vaccine efficacy will be increased if animals are healthy and receiving good nutrition. Cold stress can have a major impact in young calves. Sick animals should not be vaccinated.

✓ **Plan ahead:** Wherever possible, ensure that calves are fully vaccinated ahead of periods of high BRD risk.

✓ **Storage and handling:** Ensure vaccines are stored and handled according to the instructions on the datasheet and that refrigerators are operating at the correct temperature.

✓ **Timing:** Follow the protocol given in the product datasheet, ensuring the interval between vaccines in the primary course and any subsequent boosters is observed.

✓ **Accurate dosing:** Use an appropriate injector and calibrate equipment before use to check that the correct dose is being delivered to each animal; underdosing will affect the efficacy of vaccines.

✓ **Correct administration:** Ensure the correct route of administration is used (intramuscular or subcutaneous) according to the manufacturer's instructions.

✓ **Housing and management:** Assessing and addressing issues such as poor ventilation and air quality, excessive moisture and humidity, overcrowding, and mixing of ages/groups is key to pneumonia control, and will allow vaccines to work more effectively.

Orf & Scabivax

Orf outbreaks can be costly

- Labour/time/medicines/vet costs
- Increased time for finishing lambs
- Increased feed/forage costs for finishing lambs
- Lost income on finished lambs
- Replacement ewe costs vs cull prices
- Reduced ewe forage from overwintering lambs



Lambs with Orf weigh less

A study was carried out with cases of Orf in lambs compared to unaffected 'control' lambs in the same flock. Lambs with orf lesions were found to:

- Weigh significantly less (up to 2.2kg at end of study)
- Have significantly lower body condition scores
- At any stage, the orf lambs weighed approximately 10% less than their controls
- Financial impact £1.06 - £14.03 per ewe

In the past we have experienced difficulty in securing supplies of Scabivax vaccine. However, we have vaccine now available in stock for those clients with early lambing flocks.

Please telephone the surgery and speak to Jo or Sami to discuss your vaccine requirements.



All good things must come to an end...

The free funding for our in house test for diagnosing neonatal calf scour (Rotavirus, Coronavirus, E.coli & Cryptosporidia) has come to an end. We are still offering this test at a fee of £10 ex vat per sample from the 1st of November. The test is very quick so results can be given as you wait at the surgery. For more advice about calf scour please speak to one of our vets.

The Prince's Farm Resilience Programme

provides business advice and support to help improve your farm business. Through a series of essential and practical workshops you will be able to explore the options that are right for you, your family and farm business for a more efficient and resilient future. For more information see the website www.princescountrysidefund.org.uk/farmresilience

Lambing Supplies Checklist

Here are the items you may need over the lambing period:

Penicillin
Rimadyl
Dopram drops
Iodine
Scabivax
Glucose
Calciject No 6
Ketosaid
Spectam
Engemycin spray
Lambing aids
Rubber rings
Lubricant
Gloves
Lamb feeder tube
Disinfectant
Prolapse spoons
Sheep halter
Colostrum