



As we approach the final weeks of the grazing season, now is an excellent time to review housing management, disease protocols and think about boosting immunity prior to the risk period. As the weather will largely determine exactly when stock is housed, September often provides a last minute warm spell to get ourselves organised before the hard work of autumn and winter really begins.

Housing

Maximising stocking density is always stressful and increases the speed and spread of infectious organisms. Any stressful event for an animal also reduces the effectiveness of their immune system and so all efforts must be taken to avoid this. Ensure the sheds are stocked correctly with ventilation that is appropriate. This means 6 changes of air every hour. Often extra cladding or metal sheets can be removed to maximise airflow without creating drafts or damp areas.

Grooving concrete and adding in extra water troughs are jobs to ideally be done now as well – these small changes will save you time later on.

Mixing: Never mix calves from different sources/ age groups/ sick with healthy and be conscious of shared air space – different pens does not mean they are isolated!

Stresses: changes in groups, feeding, castration and dehorning all cause stress levels to rise. Try to minimise these stresses where possible.

Parasitic Diseases

Housing is the ideal time to target known diseases within the herd and manage normal parasitic lifecycles. Stomach worms and liver fluke are easily targeted once animals are no longer grazing.

The timing and product selection is however, crucial. Whilst wormer products often have an extended action and often give some lice cover (Avermectin types), fluke products have no persistence at all and so timing is key. Many of the fluke and wormer products are combined which may seem favourable but this often means one of the products is being used at the wrong time. This may seem like it is labour or cost saving but it won't be performing correctly. Please speak to us about product selection for exact cases but use the below table of active ingredients for a starting guide:



	Active Ingredient	Age of Fluke Killed
	Triclabendazole (Oral)	2 weeks
	Triclabendazole (Pour On)	6-8 weeks
	Closantel (Injection/Pour On)	7 weeks
	Nitroxynil (Injection)	8 weeks
	Albendazole (Oral)	10 weeks
	Clorsulon (Injection)	
	Oxyclosanide (Oral)	

Two weeks after housing – a few coughing?

The other housing parasite that can often catch us off guard is Lungworm. We spoke about Lungworm or Husk back before turnout and the importance of vaccinating naive animals before the grazing season. Due to the variable weather seen this summer and the more recent damp spell following the dry weather, Lungworm is now back on the risk radar again.

When we see groups of coughing animals shortly after housing, pneumonia is often the initial diagnosis but due to the weather patterns seen this is possibly an outbreak of Husk. It won't respond to the pneumonia treatment protocols. Active lungworm infections can cause immense lung damage and predispose animals to other pneumonia pathogens. The larvae can also become dormant in animals over the winter ready to become new egg-producing adults next spring increasing the challenge to the next batch of young stock. Luckily lungworm are susceptible to most wormers and combinations products.



Vaccinations

Most of you will be completing a combination of IBR and BVD vaccinations. Housing is not only an ideal time to handle cattle without causing extra stress and maximising man power but it is also a brilliant time of year to boost immunity ready for the high risk period. We have a variety of vaccines available as well as a relatively new BVD vaccine that is a single injection every year but comes with higher costs for the annual herd booster.

IBR Vaccines

1) Bovilis IBR marker Live – Single vaccination intranasally or intramuscularly.

- The vaccine has a 6 month cover. Use the vaccine in the autumn period before housing and before weather conditions are more likely to produce disease.

2) Rispoval IBR has a relatively complicated starter course but can result in an annual booster for IBR

- Live injection initially
- 6 months later an inactivated vaccine subcutaneous
- 12 months and thereafter – inactivated subcutaneous

BVD

1) Bovilis BVD – It should ideally be given before the breeding season so the protection is timed before the animals are bred. Given that most herds calve all year round the best advice is: -

- Adult dairy cows given their single booster at **one set time of the year** at or less than a year from starter course
- Youngstock should be vaccinated before being bred. Two injections 4-6 weeks apart

2) Bovella – Single dose

A vaccine containing two strains of BVD one of which is European that gives a year of cover from annual injections. Heifers must be vaccinated three weeks before full cover is required.

Speak to us at the practice about protocols, prices and the best approach for your herd!

Calf Vaccines

Now is also the perfect time to review calf vaccination protocols and to check that we are targeting the right pathogens.

Stopped vaccinating calves in summer months? - Take this opportunity to test unvaccinated animals at 12 weeks or more to do a farm pathogen screen – book in today!

News

Foot Trimming Courses

Full day theory and practical courses
– Dates to be allocated for the autumn

Book your place now on 01452 543 999 or on
largeanimal@woodvet.co.uk

News

A New Face

We are delighted to welcome Carolize Compton as a new farm animal vet. She is a Nottingham graduate and has been working in Leicestershire and Barnard Castle.

I'm sure you will all welcome her to Gloucestershire and our team at Woods. Another new face to welcome next month – watch this space!