



Dairy and Beef Turnout

January seems to have flown by in a series of rainy days with the odd decent frost. Whilst this has encouraged problems in sheds with pneumonia and lice, it is now time to focus on preparation for turnout onto spring grazing.

Lungworm/Husk

Autumn 2017 saw a record high for cases of lungworm *aka Dictyocaulus viviparus* in adult and juvenile cattle at grazing. Youngstock in their first grazing season and adult cattle that have not been exposed for some years are at high risk of developing severe clinical signs as they have no immunity:

- Coughing
- Loss of body condition
- Increased respiratory rate and difficulty breathing
- Death in severe cases in 24-48 hours
- Adult cows can also show milk drop



Lifecycle:

Larvae are ingested from infected pasture and migrate out of the gut and through the diaphragm. This damages the lung tissue causing parasitic bronchitis. The larvae mature to adults whilst in the lungs and lay eggs which hatch out to form new larvae. The new larvae are coughed up and swallowed back into the rumen – these are then shed in the faeces completing the infection cycle. Once a farm has lungworm, cases will recur due to larvae overwintering on pastures and cows carrying larvae through the housing window.

Immunity:

A natural immunity develops once animals have been exposed to low numbers of larvae. If adults are grazed each year then their immunity is boosted annually. If we have a particularly low year for larvae, like summer 2016, then their immune system will not be exposed, leaving them almost naive the next season. Autumn 2017 was a very high larval year – this is why we saw adult and calf disease and a significant number of deaths. The only method of protecting animals is to vaccinate cattle due to be grazed for the first time **BEFORE** turnout.

Huskvac is a vaccine made of live but irradiated 3rd stage larvae to allow immunity to develop against the lungworm:

- Vaccinate ALL CATTLE BEFORE THEIR FIRST grazing season from 8 weeks old
- Course of 2 doses – 4 weeks apart
- 2nd dose 2 weeks prior to turnout (**start the course a minimum of 6 weeks prior to turnout! – i.e. very soon!**)
- Keep the vaccine in the fridge prior to use and GENTLY mix each bottle to not kill larvae before administration orally
- Do not use ANY wormer for 2 weeks after
- Graze these animals on old permanent leys, avoiding clean pasture
- Beware the purchase of unvaccinated in calf or down calving heifers! Animals that have not been exposed for a number of years are naive again and will develop clinical disease. Quarantine animals and use a wormer prior to grazing as a standard protocol to avoid contamination of pastures.



LUNGWORM LARVAE

Order Huskvac NOW to get the 6 week course complete prior to grazing

Leptospirosis

Despite some decline in prevalence, Lepto is still a common source of ABORTION, POOR FERTILITY and MILK DROP, with those that graze at the highest risk. However, year round housing is not a guaranteed safeguard due to the infection route. The bacteria are shed in milk and from the kidneys into urine and can cause:

- **Reduced conception rate to as low as 15% in clinical outbreaks**
- **Decreased milk yield by 800 litres per lactation**
- **Higher abortion rates**
- **It can also cause 'flu like' symptoms in humans**



Lepto is present due to:

- Contaminated water sources which can include all non-mains water sources including bore holes
- Persistently infected cows that shed despite vaccination (the vaccine prevents clinical disease, not shedding)

- Rat activity contaminating water and feed
 - Very poor forages with soil contamination (Lepto can survive for six months in wet soil)
 - Indirect contact with the bacteria from bought in animals or co-grazing animals increases likely infection e.g.:
 - Buying in animals/ Bull hiring/ Sheep grazing
- In line with this, a certain amount can be done to eliminate the risks but vaccination will be a vital part of any plan where Leptospirosis has been identified as a problem.

When vaccinating with **Leptavoid-H:**

- Primary course of 2 injections 4 weeks apart
- 2nd dose 2 or more weeks before turnout
- Annual booster again 2 weeks before turnout
- Vaccinate all breeding animals – i.e. heifers prior to first service too

Is it a problem on your farm?

Do a BULK MILK TEST or BEEF BLOODS – 1 bulk milk or 10 bloods are free on a scheme

Speak to us to get this booked in

Blackleg

Clostridial diseases are most common when livestock are at pasture ingesting soil contaminated grass. Blackleg is the most common disease for cattle. You may see lameness, loss of appetite, rapid breathing and fever but most commonly these are very fit, well animals that are just found dead. Calves are highest risk especially from 10 months to 2 years old. Due to the lack of warning and no particular scenario for avoidance it is best to vaccinate these high risk stock with Bravoxin 10.

- Primary course of 2 injections 4-6 weeks apart covers the grazing season
- Annual booster every 12 months gives continued immunity
- Cattle can be vaccinated from as early as 2 weeks old but if the dam has had her booster 8 to 2 weeks prior to calving down, then the calf will be covered until 12 weeks old by colostrum transfer of maternal antibodies. It then requires a full course at 12 weeks of age.
- Calves vaccinated under 3 months old need a second full starter course at 3 months old

#Februdairy

Many of you will have seen the negative press regards vegan diets in January. Help support the British Cattle Veterinary Association initiative to bolster the positive press around the dairy and beef industry by posting photos and comments on social media that encapsulates why you are so proud to work with cows and people who care for their animals [@BCVA](#) [#Februdairy](#) [@Februdairy](#)

Reminder...

TB TESTS

Please ring the office to book in your TB tests as soon as your letter arrives with your dates – we sadly have lots of clients on short interval testing and so we need plenty of notice to get everyone tested within their window and on their preferred dates

Reminder...

FARM ONLY TELEPHONE NUMBER

Please update your mobiles and contacts to the correct number to reach the farm team:

01452 543 999

Many of you are ringing the small animal extension (ending 990) before you reach us