



Housing Preparation

As we head into shorter days and heavy maize foraging now is the time to think about housing. Preparation should encompass sheds, forage stores and most importantly the cattle themselves. **Failing to prepare is preparing to fail!** Missing out steps to eradicate parasites and control disease spread will have long lasting performance impacts through the winter and prevention is always preferable to treatments. Over the next two newsletters we will address each section of preparation for stock:

Vaccinations

Housing offers an ideal opportunity to vaccinate cattle without adding in an extra handling event or stress whilst utilising the same labour. It is also a great time to boost immunity ahead of the high risk period caused by increasing stocking density and mixing age groups at housing. All vaccines have a lag phase between the injection of the vaccine and full immunity being established and these differ between each vaccine type. There are different vaccines available with a range of properties and so it is important to decide which regime is best for your farm.

IBR Vaccine

Bovilis IBR marker Live – Single vaccination intranasally or intramuscularly.

- The vaccine gives 6 month cover against Bovine Rhinotracheitis – a disease that still has devastating affects on adult cattle and young stock alike. (It now has a licence to be given 12 monthly once a cow has had the first two doses given 6 months apart – not always easy to keep track of).
- Use the vaccine in the autumn period before housing and before weather conditions are more likely to produce disease.
- Give vaccine intranasally under 3 months of age or in the face of an outbreak – slows spread of disease through a herd.
- Give vaccine in the muscle for animals over 3 months old.

Calf Pneumonia Vaccines

Vaccines for calf pneumonia reduce the severity of cases, reduce the amount of virus or bacteria the animal sheds and therefore reduces the number of new cases. When considering vaccination, every effort still needs to be made to improve the environment otherwise vaccination will have a limited benefit.

Environmental factors to focus on:

- Poor Immunity – colostrum volume, timing, hygiene and quality
- Mixing calves from different sources and ages increases pathogen spread
- Hygiene – clean feeding apparatus and good housing hygiene minimises spread
- Sick calves need to be isolated to slow spread
- Poorly designed buildings – exposure to drafts, no ventilation, overstocking, extremes of temperature and shared air space between ages. Moisture in sheds increases infection pressure

BVD

1) **Bovela** – Single dose course

This vaccine contains two strains of BVD, one of which is European – very useful if you import cattle.

- 12 months cover from a single injection
- Heifers must be vaccinated three weeks before full cover is required i.e. 3 weeks or more prior to first service.

2) **Bovilis BVD** – It should be given before the start of breeding to ensure the pregnancy is protected. Given that most herds calve all year round the best advice is: -

- Boost the adult dairy herd with a single injection annually – one year max. after their starter course
- Youngstock should be fully vaccinated 4 weeks before being bred. Two injections 4-6 weeks apart as the full starter course followed by a 6 month booster – 12 month boosters from then on.

- Inadequate nutrition – low milk intake (immunity relies on energy and protein)
- Other diseases – calves with scour are 3 times more likely to get pneumonia
- Castration and Dehorning stress
- Access to water – calves should have access to water from birth to ensure good hydration

Blood tests on 12 week old calves will indicate what pneumonia agents are involved and allows us to pick the right vaccine for your farm to give optimum cover – especially when there is more than one pathogen involved. You can see from the mind field of vaccines available that we need to understand at what age calves get pneumonia on your farm and what is causing the disease in order to select the right product to make a cost effective difference:

Vaccine	Pasturella	IBR	RSV	PI ₃	BVD	Earliest Start	No. of doses	Route	Protection Duration
Risposal Intranasal	-	-	+	+	-	9 days	1	Intranasal	12 weeks
Bovalto Respi Intranasal	-	-	+	+	-	10 days	1	Intranasal – 1ml per nostril	12 weeks
Bovipast RSP	+	-	+	+	-	2 weeks	2 (4 weeks apart)	S/C	
Risposal 4	-	+	+	+	+	3 weeks old	2 (3 weeks apart)	I/M	3 months
						3 months	2 (3-4 weeks apart)	I/M	6 months
Bovilis IBR Live	-	+	-	-	-	2 weeks	2 (2 nd at 3 months old)	Intranasal	3 months
						3 months	1	Intranasal or I/M	6 months
Risposal Pasturella	+	-	-	-	-	3 months	1	I/M	17 weeks
Bovalto Pastobov	+	-	-	-	-	4 weeks	2 (3-4 weeks apart)	Intranasal or S/C	12 months

Bovalto Respi Intranasal (as highlighted in blue above and pictured) is a new vaccine similar to other intranasal vaccines. However, it contains newer strains of the 2 viruses and comes with a special applicator. The applicator ensures the vaccine is delivered in the right droplet size (30 to 100um) to the nasal membranes with ease (2ml dose - 1ml in each nostril). A soft rubber cone is fitted to a very narrow nozzle on a multi injector gun. The cone fits against each nostril during dosing creating the fine mist required to trigger the immune reaction. Larger or smaller droplets bypass the nasal membranes and do not cause an immune response resulting in a waste of time and money and failure of protection despite vaccine use. This ease of correct delivery will ensure that farms see the total benefit of vaccinating and hopefully will make it easier to use as well. This vaccine is available in 5 dose packs and can be ordered from the practice.



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

In November's newsletter...Preparation Part 2: Feet, Fluke, Lice and Worms