



CALF SCOUR- WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Calf scour is the most common cause of death in calves less than one month old and tackling an outbreak on farm is labour intensive and expensive. Scours causes dehydration in calves and therefore must be treated quickly and correctly. However this is not so simple as there are various reasons that causes these scours in young calves. Causes of scour include Viruses (Rotavirus, Coronavirus), Parasites (Cryptosporidium, Coccidiosis), Bacteria (E-coli, salmonella) and nutritional. Mixed infections are common. In various research projects Rotavirus and Cryptosporidium are found to be the most common diagnoses. We discuss how Cheshire Farm Vets can help you are your herd this winter.

Many of the pathogens causing scours are present on all farms and problems with disease only occur when the disease **CHALLENGE** is greater than the levels of the calves' **IMMUNITY**. This is why disease often occurs more commonly in winter when challenge increases due to reduced cleanliness of housing. Therefore whilst we can look at treatment and vaccines, the housing environment is vital in the success of managing and preventing calf scours.

HOUSING:

With recent wintery weather many are facing challenges with wet, cold conditions along with straw bedding shortages likely across parts of the country. Both of these increase the risk of scour as hygiene is reduced. Housing hygiene is key in preventing calf scour. Wet, dirty and insufficient bedding will allow bacteria, parasites and viruses to thrive. Ensuring calving sheds and pens are well bedded with good amounts of dry straw is crucial to maintain clean and dry calving areas and reduce the risk of infections. Straw might be relatively expensive and with stocks looking tight (a predicted late turnout may well be putting pressure on straw stocks) it is still cost effective to ensure calving cows and young calves are well bedded compared with calf losses.

CALF SIDE TESTING & SNAP TESTS:

At the first sign of scouring calves its key to identify the pathogen that is causing the issue. Therefore ensuring correct and effective treatment can be given. At Severn Edge we have Calf Side Scour Snap Tests available to purchase which will give you an idea of what the problem may be.

These easy to use test kits can test for Rotavirus, Ecoli F5 (K99), Coronavirus and Cryptosporidium in less than 10 minutes. By having this insight we are able to offer a treatment plan that targets the cause of the scour. Snap Tests are available to purchase in packs of 5 OR one of our Vet Tech team can come out complete a test for you.

VACCINES:

The new cryptosporidium vaccine, **Bovilis Cryptium**, offers a solution, it is used in pregnant heifers and cows. When used alongside **Fencovis** they help to protect calves against the major culprits of scour; rotavirus, E.coli, coronavirus and now cryptosporidium. This vaccine is not only for farmers experiencing calf deaths, there is a benefit even for the milder cases too. Calves destined for beef will grow better, those who don't scour can put on 34 kg more weight than calves who do. In addition, scouring calves are 17 times more likely to develop pneumonia weeks later, further delaying their growth and research has shown this delays heifers getting into calf. Prevention of scour saves money, antibiotic and anti-inflammatory usage and time in the both the short and long term. The vaccine works by the dam passing on antibodies generated onto their calves via colostrum, therefore, good colostrum management is pivotal to the success of this vaccine. The four key points of colostrum are quantity quality, cleanliness and quickly. **As always please contact us for any advise about your herd, 0120 310 010.**

Follow the 1, 2, 3 Rule of Colostrum Management



Colostrum from the 1st milking



Feed the calf within 2 hours of birth



Feed at least 3L of colostrum (Or 10% of body weight)

Colostrum quality decreases every hour after calving and the ability of the calf to absorb antibodies from colostrum also decreases over this time.

BOVILIS Cryptium
 - Route: Subcutaneous (SC)
 - Dose: 2ml



**CHESHIRE
FARM VETS**

BLUE TONGUE- BTV-3 VACCINE

DEFRA have now published permits for the use of three unauthorised bluetongue serotype 3 (BTV-3) vaccines within the United Kingdom. The vaccines are suppressive, meaning they will reduce some of the clinical signs experienced by animals with the disease. These vaccines must only be used when an appropriate licence is available.

Unlike some of the authorised vaccines for other BTV serotypes, these BTV-3 vaccines are likely to reduce rather than prevent viraemia (presence of BTV virus in the blood). This means they may not prevent your animals from being infected or infectious. Depending on the vaccine, they work to reduce or prevent clinical signs or the likelihood of mortality.

For this reason, vaccination status will not affect movement and trade restrictions which remain in place and apply to all ruminants and camelids moving out of the restricted zone, and the movement of their germinal products within the zone. Farmers should only move animals within the extended zone where absolutely necessary.

On the 27th September the first cases on BTV- 3 were found in some sheep in Wales, we therefore must remind you to remain vigilant and responsible when moving animals.

To 'act' on BTV-3, be aware of how bluetongue is transmitted as a vector-borne disease, take caution against misinformation, and promote evidence-based tactics on-farm.

1. Awareness of how BTV-3 is transmitted as a vector-borne disease
2. Caution against any misinformation, but instead view the latest facts
3. Tactics on-farm to help with midge control must be evidence-based

If you are wanting to understand more about the vaccines and the use and cost implication please contact the practice today, 0120 310 010.

The number for the Bluetongue hotline is 024 7771 0386. NFU members can also access the CallFirst hotline: 0370 845 8458

REMINDER TO REGISTER YOUR BIRDS

Like microchipping for pet dogs (and cats if you live in England), new rules make it a legal requirement for everyone in Great Britain who keeps birds to register with the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA).

Keepers must register before 1 October 2024 in England. Simply head to APHA and complete a poultry registration form, which can be returned by email or post. Alternatively,, you can call APHA on 03000 200 301 and apply over the phone.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Thank you to all that came to visit us at the Cheshire Ploughing Match we had a very busy day, and we loved seeing you all.

FARMER SIGN UP MEETING for Animal Pathway

Tuesday 15th October at 7:00pm

at The Robin Hood, Rainow, SK10 5XE

WHAT YOU NEED: CPH, SBI, CRN (a ten digit number emailed to you when you registered with the RPS), email you registered with the RP and password

**** SMALL HOLDERS CLUB MEETING ** LAUNCH OF OUR NEW CLUB!**

Wednesday 6th November

6.30pm start at Marthall Village Hall

Please call the practice to confirm your place.



TB CORNER

Cheshire Farm Vets are now able to offer TBAS Services to our farmers. Our advisors will work with you to identify TB risks and suggest changes to help you reduce these. We know that TB can feel uncontrollable but there are steps you can take to help prevent a TB breakdown.

If you are a farmer of cattle , deer , goats or camelids in England you may qualify for FREE TELEPHONE ADVICE or a FREE SET OF VISITS. Please call TBAS and arrange a visit from our team at Cheshire Farm Vets. This is a DEFRA funded vet led initiative that will support all farmers in looking at how we can reduce yours risks of Bovine TB.

TBAS TEAM 01306 779410 Cheshire Farm Vets Office 01270 310 010



Cheshire Farm Vets

The Granary, Dingle Bank Farm. Holmes Chapel, SK11 9DP

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