

Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD)

It is estimated that more than 90% of UK herds have had exposure to BVD. Losses result from reduced fertility, poor production and increased susceptibility to other infections, especially in young calves. While elimination of infection from the herd is optimal, often this is impractical. Vaccination can be highly effective and produces a substantial cost benefit. Options for vaccination are:

- **Bovilis BVD:** a primary course of 2 vaccines given 4wks apart with the 2nd vaccine given at least 4wks before breeding. Annual boosters are required thereafter.
- **Bovela:** can be used from 3 months old, only one vaccine is required as a primary course (at least 3wks before going to the bull) with an annual booster thereafter.

Bovela is more expensive than Bovilis BVD, however as only one vaccine is needed as a primary course, it may fit into your management system better. Please speak to your vet to see which vaccine is most suited to your system.

BOOST COLOSTRUM QUALITY TO BEAT CALF SCOURS

With the peak winter calf scour season upon us, remember that vaccination of the cow against the common infectious causes of calf scour (Rotavirus, Coronavirus and E.coli K99), and then feeding the antibody-enriched colostrum to your calves should play a vital role in your calf scour control programme.

Calf scours cost you money. ADAS estimates the cost of a scour outbreak in a 100-cow suckler herd (assuming 90 calves born) to be £5794. The potential cost saving of preventing a scour outbreak by vaccinating cows pre-calving with Rotavec Corona is therefore more than £4000. That's a pretty healthy financial benefit.

Calves are most at risk from infectious scour in the first 3-4 weeks of life and need a source of continuous protection – through passive transfer of antibodies in the colostrum – to keep them healthy. On many units, normal colostrum does not provide enough antibodies. However, vaccination of the calf's mother with Rotavec Corona



between 12 and 3 weeks before calving boosts colostrum quality, allowing you to feed high

levels of antibodies against Rotavirus, Coronavirus and E.coli K99 in early life. Make sure calves receive at least three litres of this high quality colostrum within the first six hours after birth for maximum benefit.

Rotavirus remains one of the most prevalent infectious scour-causing pathogens on UK calf units and it is very difficult to treat calves against this type of viral scour. The only effective disease management strategy is to vaccinate the dam to help boost calf disease immunity through plentiful, high quality colostrum feeding, as well as implementing sound hygiene practices.

It really is well worth boosting colostrum quality this winter by vaccinating cows with Rotavec Corona.



Don't forget to take advantage of our subsidised testing programs for BVD, Lepto, and IBR in cattle, and toxoplasmosis in sheep. Please contact your nearest Wern Vet's branch for more details.

Dog's Trust Farm Dog Neutering Scheme

From March 1st 2016 the rules for the dog's trust neutering scheme will be changing. Only the following breeds will be eligible:

Staffordshire Bull Terrier, Mastiff, Rottweiler, American Bull Dog, Greyhound, Lurcher, Akita, Husky, Malamute, German Shepherd, Samoyed, Jack Russell Terrier, Collie, Crossbreeds (where the primary breed is identifiable as one of those listed here).

The client contribution will also increase to £35. If you wish to have your dog neutered please contact your nearest Wern Vet's branch.

FREE microchipping is still available for all dogs! Dogs need to be chipped by April!