

Armac Vets Newsletter August 2011

Although we have not had much of a summer to talk about, its time to start thinking about housing and all the issues that go with it.

Pneumonia Vaccination

Never have so many vaccines been available on the market and this can be confusing when trying to formulate a vaccination plan for pneumonia in cattle. Vaccines can be used from 9 days old and can last from 3-6 months depending on the product used. Each farming system is different so the best thing is to speak to one of the vets to ensure you are using the most appropriate vaccine for your farm. A worm dose 3 weeks prior to housing can contribute to improving lung health prior to housing. If you buy in stock, or have experienced clinical cases of IBR, vaccination against this disease is recommended. Many of you have tested young stock for BVD as part of the government scheme, if the results showed exposure to BVD we would recommend a vaccine that also includes this virus.

Some typical vaccination scenarios are shown below:

❑ **Dairy Calves**

Rispoval intranasal, given from 9 days old: covers RSV and PI3 for 3 months

Then, *Rispoval 4*, given when the animal reaches 3 months of age: two doses 4 weeks apart give protection against RSV, PI3, IBR and BVD for a further 6 months.

❑ **Spring born suckler calves**

If BVD and IBR are known to be on the farm, or you are buying in stock, use *Rispoval 4*, given in two doses 4 weeks apart, which lasts for 6 months. Calves must be 3 months old and the course must be completed two weeks before housing.

❑ **Autumn born suckler calves**

These animals are too young for *Rispoval 4*, so use *Rispoval Intranasal* (see above). Can add in *Rispoval IBR marker* vaccine if buying in stock or if you have had cases of IBR in the past.

IF IN ANY DOUBT, SPEAK TO A VET, THESE VACCINE ARE AN INVESTMENT AND YOU NEED TO USE THE MOST APPROPRIATE VACCINE FOR YOUR SYSTEM TO GET GOOD VALUE FOR MONEY!

Pfizer are launching their 'Sure Calf' scheme again this year. The aim of this scheme is to encourage producers to vaccinate calves **pre-sale** with *Rispoval 4* (or *Rispoval 3* and *Tracherine*) and then register them on-line 4 weeks before the sale. Research has shown that buyers are paying £48/head more for these calves as they have less pneumonia and better growth rates are achieved. For more information, ask a vet or go to www.surecalf.co.uk

Fert Bench

This is a new benchmarking programme run by the SAC, designed to allow farmers to enter production data. This data is analysed and can be compared year-on-year both for individual farms and also between other similar farms. We have seen a demonstration of the programme and believe it would be a very useful tool for monitoring herd health and production. It is a relatively easy system to use, and also relatively inexpensive at £50 + VAT. It allows entry of three sets of data (i.e. three different calving groups).

For more information, please go to www.fertbench.com or, if we can get a group of interested farmers together, we could try to organise a demonstration meeting/lunch with the SAC. Please contact us to register interest in this programme.

Micotil Meeting

Foot rot is an ever present condition in the majority of our sheep flocks. Control, never mind eradication, of this disease is a constant battle that currently costs the UK sheep industry £1.50 per sheep per year. In conjunction with Elanco, we are planning a meeting on Sheep Lameness for Thursday 27th October. We will discuss, amongst other things, whole flock treatment with Micotil. We will be in touch nearer the time to confirm details.

New Product: *Starvac* mastitis vaccine

This is a vaccine against bovine mastitis. It covers *Ecoli*, *Staph aureus* and coagulase negative *Staphylococci* bacteria. The vaccine regime requires three injections: first, 45 days before calving; second, 10 days before calving; and third, 52 days after calving. It costs £4.75/dose. This vaccine is designed to:

- ▣ Reduce the incidence of clinical and sub clinical intramammary infections up to 30 days *post partum*
- ▣ Reduce the severity of clinical cases (in appearance of both milk and of quarters)
- ▣ Reduce SCC

Changes at Armac

We are delighted to announce that David Gardner-Roberts is now officially a partner of Armac vets. As a valued member of the veterinary team we are delighted to have David involved in the running of the business.

In October we are going to be joined by a new vet, David Bauwens. David is from Killearn and has been working in Wales since graduating 2 years ago. We are looking forward to welcoming David to the Armac team.