

## Pneumonia in calves

- ▣ Post mortems recently submitted to the SAC lab showed us that the most likely cause of pneumonia was RSV and PI3. These are both viruses that are common causes of pneumonia in cattle.
- ▣ Unfortunately viruses are very hard to treat, as they do not respond to antibiotics and anti-inflammatory drugs.
- ▣ Control of viral pneumonia is 2 fold
  - Vaccination
  - Husbandry

There are a few vaccine programmes to consider: -

Option 1

**Rispoval 4:** 2 doses 3-4 weeks apart

Protection against RSV, PI3, BVD and IBR (the 4 main causes of viral pneumonia)

Notes:

- full course should ideally be performed 3 weeks before housing (i.e. start course 7 weeks before plan to house)
- can only use in animals older than 3 months
- lasts 6 months
- most used programme in our practice area

Option 2

**Rispoval Intranasal:** Single dose up the nose

Protection against RSV and PI3 (NOT BVD or IBR)

Notes:

- can start course at 3 weeks of age
- lasts 9 weeks so may not last whole housing period

### Option 3

**Rispoval Intranasal:** Single dose up the nose, lasts 9 weeks

**Separate IBR Live Marker vaccine:** 2 doses 3-5 weeks apart, last 6 months

Protection against RSV, PI3 and IBR

Notes – Can start course at 3 weeks

- Gives broader protection than just using Rispoval intranasal as added protection against IBR
- may not last full housing period

### Option 4

**Rispoval 3:** 2 doses 3-4 weeks apart

Protection against RSV, PI3, BVD (NOT IBR)

Notes

- can start at 3 months
- ideally need to vaccinate 3 weeks prior to housing
- lasts 6 months

If the primary cause of pneumonia is viral, then treatment of severe clinical cases can be unrewarding. Treatment with *Draxxin* can help, as it has a longer duration of action, in conjunction with anti-inflammatory drugs such as *Metacam* or *Cronyxin* (flunixin) that help to reduce permanent damage to the lungs and ill-thrift.

Husbandry and housing is a very broad subject and unfortunately is often difficult to address. The following pointers may be of use:

- ▣ Try to avoid mixing calves of different ages in the same air space
- ▣ Try to avoid stress i.e. weaning, dehorning, castration, moving when high risk period.
- ▣ Try to avoid introducing new animals. Keep any new purchases in isolation for 2-3 weeks
- ▣ Try to ensure adequate ventilation and air movement (this can be assessed by using a smoke bomb)
- ▣ Try to minimise humidity, clip backs of cattle and maintain guttering to avoid pens getting wet