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BVD Free England

Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) is one of the biggest disease issues facing the UK cattle industry and has been estimated to cost between £13 and £31 per cow in Great Britain. The national cost could be as high as £61M per year. The BVD Free England scheme is designed to **eliminate BVD virus from all UK cattle herds by 2022**. This will be achieved by identifying and removing Persistently Infected (PI) animals. Test results for scheme members will be held on a national database.



Joining the scheme is voluntary for farmers but offers obvious benefits, such as having healthier cattle and being able to promote the BVD Free status of animals on the database. It is **free** to join the scheme and we advise all our farmers to do so. If 60% of UK cattle are registered in the first 2 years of the scheme, then government support can be sought for the implementation of compulsory measures.

A step-by-step guide:

1. Register for the scheme by completing a BVD Free registration form (available on www.bvdfree.org.uk). By signing up you are agreeing to actively engage in BVD control, report BVD test results to the national database, and to remove any PI animals from your herd.
2. Work with us to identify the best approach to achieve BVD control on your farm, using the 4 step 'ADAM' process:
 - Assess the level of biosecurity and disease risk on the farm
 - Define the BVD status of the herd
 - Action plan for control of BVD on farm put in place
 - Monitor progress with an annual status check.
3. Test for BVD. All test results from samples – blood/tissue/milk – get uploaded on to the BVD Free national database.
4. Check BVD status of individual animals and herds on www.bvdfree.org.uk



ENGLAND



Please contact us if you would like more information about the disease or the BVD Free England scheme.

Visit www.bvdfree.org.uk

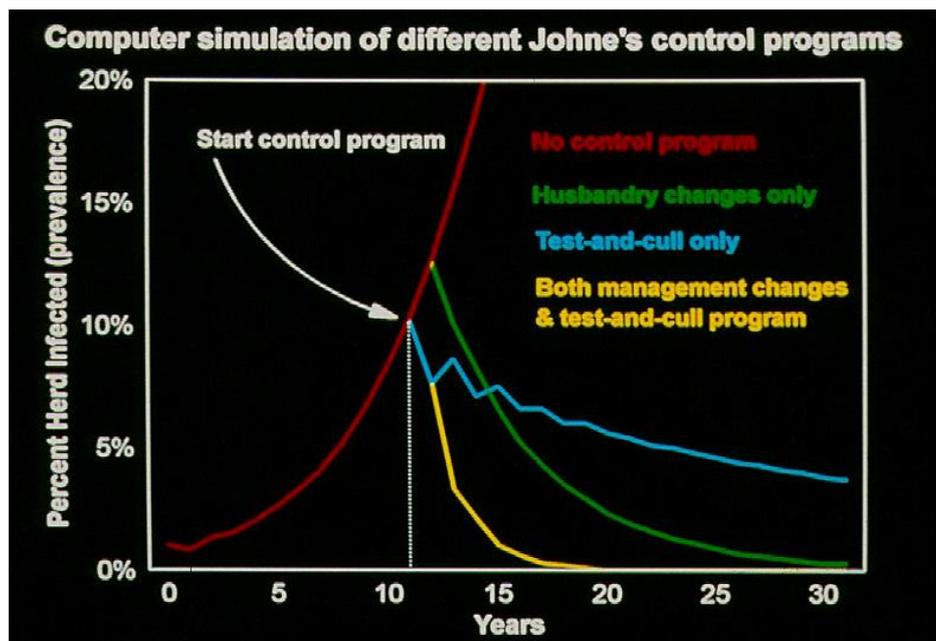
Johne's Disease... A drain on your finances



As all our Dairy clients are aware, we are being asked as part of your herd health plan to become involved in the control of Johne's disease on your farm. This is a chronic, debilitating and irreversible disease that results in huge financial costs to affected farms through production losses, increased susceptibility to other conditions (eg mastitis, lameness and high cell counts) and increased culling. Eradication of Johne's can be seen as difficult as there are no quick and easy tests that can be performed when the animal is young to determine its infection status. This means we have to wait until that animal is an adult before useful test results can be obtained.

Consequently, improvements in herd disease status can be slow to detect, but there are steps we can take now to prevent future generations becoming infected with Johne's disease.

Below is a graph of a study performed by Prof M. Collins to show the best practice in reducing the percentage of herd infection over several years to a negligible level. As can be seen from the graph, even herds implementing both management changes and a test-and-cull program will take 5 years to reduce infection levels significantly. Unfortunately there is no quick fix with this disease, and there is no one system or protocol that suits or will be effective on all units.



All of our farm vets have become BCVA Accredited Johne's Veterinary Advisers and are qualified to help you find a way forward with this challenging disease. We can provide a solution that is tailored to your farm. Please contact us to discuss what might be involved and how we can proceed with an effective control policy.



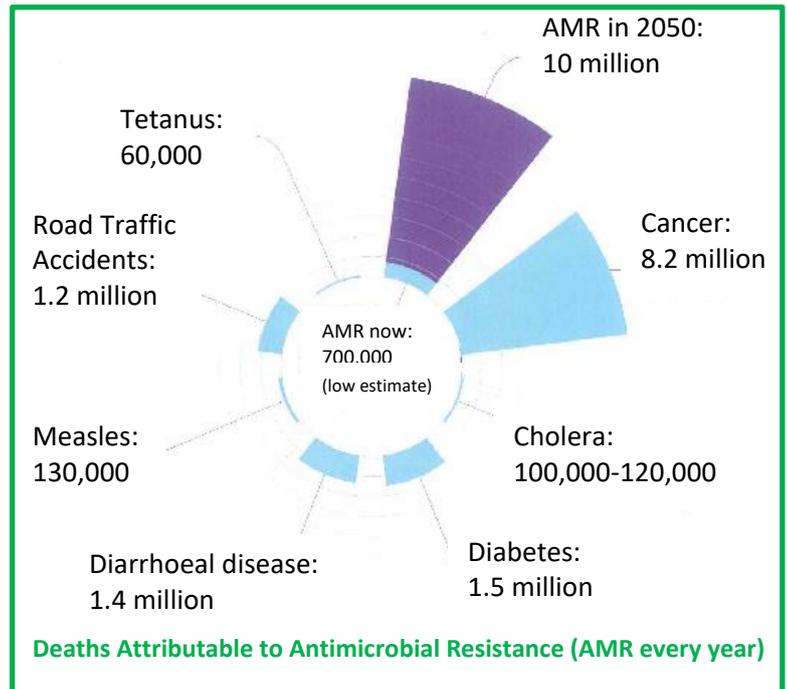
Our vet Matthew Burge is attending the next **"Action Johnes Conference"** in Worcester on Tuesday 7th February. This conference is also open to farmers so if you are interested in coming along contact Matt for course details and a lift to the event!

Matt will hold a client meeting at **7pm Wednesday 22nd February** at the **Langton Arms, Tarrant Monkton**, to pass on information from the conference (further details in next newsletter).

Responsible Use of Medicines - Reducing Antimicrobial Resistance

Antibiotics play a vital role in both animals and people. There are only a limited number of antibiotic classes available and some of these will be used in both humans and animals. Within the World Health Organisation there is a category of "Critically Important Antibiotics" which should be reserved for treatment of severe human infections and as a result we must limit their use in animal treatment due to the risk of resistance developing.

The image on the right shows the importance of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) in human health. As you can see, current usage predicts that by 2050 AMR will be responsible for 10 million human deaths every year.



The European medicines regulator have categorised antibiotics into two groups.

1. Low or limited risk to public health:

- Penicillins (Pen Strep, Duphamox, Combiclav, etc), tetracyclines (Engemycin, Alamylin) and macrolides (Lincocin, Tylan, Zactran)
- 1st and 2nd generation cephalosporins which would include Cephavlin DC, Mastiplan, Metricures, Ubrolexin tubes and Ceporex injection (we will stock this product from now on as a recommended alternative to Excenel or Naxcel, Nil milk withhold)

2. High risk to public health:

- Fluoroquinolones- Baytril, Marbocyl, Forcyl, etc
- 3rd and 4th generation cephalosporins- Excenel Flow, Naxcel, Cephaguard DC, Cobactan MC

We as a profession and an industry are coming under more pressure to look at the type and quantity of medicines that we are using on farm. We will now need to provide a robust protocol for prescribing certain medicines to you, and this may involve strategic testing of "sick" animals to ensure that we are using the most effective treatment, and preferably not one on a restricted use register. As a result our receptionists have been told to ask us if medicines are suitable to "hand out" to you and as a result they will require some time prior to being able to put your order up. With this in mind **please phone in with your drugs order preferably 24 hours before picking it up**. Thank you all for your cooperation with this.

Good news to finish with - Journey Charges

From 1st January 2017 we will be capping our journey charges to a maximum of £25 per visit. We hope that this will help our clients who are situated a little further away from us. We only ask that if you would like us to visit, please phone in early so that we can organise our rounds.

We would like to wish all our clients a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

