



DAMORY LODGE EDWARD STREET BLANDFORD FORUM DORSET DT11 7QT  
TEL : 01258 452 626 FAX : 01258 453 548 [www.damoryvets.co.uk](http://www.damoryvets.co.uk)

**In this issue: Reducing the Risk of TB; New CheCS Bovine TB Accreditation; Rotavec Corona Vaccine; Upcoming Training Courses; Lameness in Sheep**

## Reducing the Risk of TB in Your Herd

We know that lots of you are feeling very frustrated and helpless with the current bovine TB epidemic in our area. We are in a High Risk Area but there are still effective actions you can take to help protect your herd from TB. Visit [www.tbhub.co.uk](http://www.tbhub.co.uk) and contact us if you would like any specific advice for your farm.

### Manage cattle feed and water

- Badger-proof feed stores, troughs, and mineral licks to avoid contamination with infected secretions
- Don't put feed on the ground at pasture and clean up spillages
- Use clean fresh water and badger-proof water troughs – TB can live in water for 18 days+
- Don't feed waste milk to calves



### Restrict contact between cattle and badgers

- Find out if badgers are visiting your farm: Look for signs of badger setts, tracks and latrines in the fields. Consider CCTV around the yard.
- Introduce barriers to prevent badgers accessing cattle: use solid sheer face doors with no gaps at the bottom; or low 4-strand electric fences
- Limit access of cattle to badger latrines and setts at pasture using temporary electric fences

### Minimise infection from cattle manure

- Store manure for a long period before spreading on farm
- Only spread manure on arable land, or land that is not going to be grazed by cattle for at least 2 months
- Don't spread manure from other farms

### Reduce risk from neighbouring herds

- Check for local TB breakdowns on [www.ibtb.co.uk](http://www.ibtb.co.uk)
- Double fence boundary fields (with at least a 3 metre gap)
- Avoid sharing equipment and grazing

### Stop infected cattle entering the herd

- Ask for long term TB history before buying
- Isolate and post-movement test all higher risk cattle before they enter the herd



## CHeCS Bovine TB Accreditation

We would also like to tell you about the new **CHeCS Bovine TB accreditation** scheme, which will be launching on 28 November 2016. It is a voluntary scheme allowing farmers with a pro-active approach to bTB control to be recognised for this. Participating herds will be given a score between Herd Status 0 and Herd Status 10. Herd Status 10 is the lowest risk, with 10+ years since the last breakdown. Herd Status 0 is high risk, where the herd is Officially TB Free (OTF) but the last outbreak was within one year. Herds that sign up will be required to carry out Post-Movement Tests as well as Pre-Movement Tests, and are recommended to keep added animals in quarantine until results are back. We will provide a herd health plan and ensure that CHeCS biosecurity standards are met on farm.

If you are...

- In a high risk area with a low-risk holding
- Selling livestock and want your low-risk status recognised
- Buying livestock and want to minimise risk of introducing bTB
- Already using other CHeCS programmes
- Looking for a systematic, supported way to reduce bTB in your herd
- Or keen to complement Government and industry efforts to control infection  
...this voluntary programme could suit you.



If you are interested in the bTB accreditation then please contact us for more information.

## Rotavec Corona Vaccine – Calf Scours

Traditionally we see an increase in calf scours in January, February and March. Most of these cases are due to rotavirus or coronavirus which build up in the environment over the winter months. These pathogens tend to cause scours in the first 10 days of life, which may be fatal if not treated early or if the calves don't mount a sufficient immune response. Immunity in calves during this time will be totally dependent on the level of antibodies within the colostrum, and the colostrum intake in the first 2 feeds of life.



There is a vaccine called **Rotavec Corona** that **will enhance the colostrum immunity very successfully**. The vaccine is administered to cows or heifers 3-12 weeks prior to calving and significantly boosts the quality of the colostrum. It has been suggested that the level of immunoglobulins in colostrum of vaccinated animals may be up to 60 times greater than that contained in the pastes that can be administered at the time of birth. Calves must receive adequate colostrum in the first 6 hours of life, and suckled calves will continue to receive adequate colostrum naturally by feeding from vaccinated cows.

## Upcoming Training Courses

We hope to hold practical training courses soon in the following topics:

- Responsible and safe use of medicines on farm
- Foot trimming
- Artificial Insemination

If you are interested in taking part in any of these, please **contact us** to register your interest. Once we have sufficient numbers then we will let you know the arrangements for the course.

## Lameness in Sheep

Lameness in sheep is a common welfare concern and impacts on productivity. Where lameness affects a significant portion of the flock then infectious causes are most likely. Being able to differentiate these is important so that the correct treatment and prevention protocols can be used. The 3 most common infectious causes are:

- **Interdigital Dermatitis** (scald) – affects the skin between the claws and is caused by bacteria *Dichelobacter Nodosus*. It is recognized to be an early stage of footrot, (image to right.)
- **Footrot** (lure) – Caused by *D. Nodosus*, starts in interdigital space but if left untreated will cause under running of the sole (image to right.) Also has a distinctive rotten smell!
- **Contagious Ovine Digital Dermatitis** (CODD) – caused by treponemes, similar to those that cause digital dermatitis in cattle. Initial lesion starts at the coronary band and as the infection spreads down it causes separation of the hoof wall from the underlying structures (image to right.)



In all cases these must be dealt with on a flock basis. Rapid detection and treatment will reduce spread and likelihood of irreversible damage to the feet.

Treat scald and footrot cases the same;

- mark, record and treat affected sheep
- use topical antibiotic spray and antibiotic injection
- infected feet should **not** be trimmed as this delays healing time
- return stock to fresh pasture and where possible separate infected sheep to minimize risk of infection to healthy stock
- use footbaths containing formalin or zinc sulphate (remember to use correct concentration, standing times, and stand on hard/clean ground after bathing)
- put animals in fields which have been clear of sheep for 10-14 days (the bacteria can only survive on grass for this long)
- vaccination with Footvax (MSD) can be used as part of a combined control plan
- apply a 'two or three strikes and out' approach to cull persistently affected stock as they act as a continuous source of infection
- focal points of infection will be where it is very muddy i.e at water and feed troughs and gateways - use of gravel/woodchip to reduce muddiness will help

**REMEMBER: Prompt treatment → separate → record → cull repeat infections → +/- vaccinate**

Treatment of CODD – consult us if you have a problem with CODD. CODD often fails to respond to the usual treatments of footrot. We will recommend specific injectable antibiotics and/or antibiotic footbaths.