



Newsletter

February 2019

Happy New Year to all of you. Although it does not currently feel like it, spring is just around the corner. Please let us know in advance if you need anything in preparation for lambing or calving time.

This month Paul tries to explain the current issues and changes in vaccinations available for cattle, and Mike will discuss a recent meeting we had with sheep clients about Flock Health Clubs.

Changes to Vaccinations: Availability and Strategies

Many of you ordering vaccines from the Farm Animal Practice recently may have found that the product you have previously used is no longer in production or currently unavailable. In this short article we will try to explain what changes have occurred recently, and what this means for your herd vaccination strategies.

1. Vaccination against BVD

Bovidec BVD is no longer in production and all stocks of the vaccine have now been exhausted. For those farms continuing to vaccinate against BVD, there are two remaining products available.

A. Bovilis BVD: data provided to FAP by MSD shows that Bovilis can be used to successfully boost immunity in an animal/herd that received a primary course of Bovidec. The license recommendation for Bovilis does however recommend a booster 6 months after the Bovidec was given.

If the herd can be vaccinated **4 weeks prior to pregnancy** then the immunity provided by Bovilis has been shown to last 12 months.

Dose rate is 2ml per dose by *intramuscular* injection. Primary course is **2 injections 4 weeks apart**.

Both of these protocols have handling and management implications for farms, so please do contact us if you are unsure.

Current price per dose from FAP is approximately £2.69 excl. VAT

B. Bovela BVD: Bovela has no claims to boost immunity in herds previously vaccinated with Bovidec. However as it is a modified live vaccine, it only requires one dose to prime the immune system, with boosters required every 12 months. Cattle should be vaccinated at least 3 weeks before they are pregnant, otherwise complete protection is not guaranteed.

Dose rate is 2ml per dose by *intramuscular* injection.

Use in breeding bulls has not been licensed, however there is anecdotal evidence available that it is safe to use. A very small number of calves born in Europe to cows vaccinated with Bovela have been found BVD positive on tissue tag tests, however further blood tests have proven them to be BVD negative.

If you have any questions regarding this product please contact us.

Current price per dose from FAP is approximately £5.50 excl. VAT

2. Vaccination against Leptospirosis

There have been multiple supply issues with Leptavoid-H recently due to a large batch failure, and we have no information on when it will next be available. There is only one other product available for vaccination against leptospirosis.

A: Spirovac: Can be used to boost animals previously vaccinated for Leptavoid-H. Any unvaccinated animals should receive a primary course of 2 injections 4-6 weeks apart (this primary course must be done with either Leptavoid or Spirovac – you cannot mix and match at this point!). Once animals have received their primary course, Spirovac can be used to boost immunity every 12 months. Any animals that have received a primary course of Spirovac should continue to receive Spirovac as boosters, as there is no information that Leptavoid-H can boost Spirovac!

Dose rate is 2ml by *subcutaneous* injection.

If you have any queries about this regime please contact us.

Current price per dose (Spirovac) from FAP is approximately £2.98 excl. VAT

Current price per dose (Leptavoid) is approximately £3.88 excl. VAT – when we can get it.....

****Unfortunately there is currently a supply issue for Spirovac where we are getting limited allocation of stock from the supplier. Ali is keeping a list of client needs, and we will be working on a 'first come-first served' basis while stock is restricted. Please plan ahead of time for your vaccination needs. We will be in discussion with the manufacturers about subsidising vaccination for herds where immunity lapses due to this supply issue and primary courses need to be repeated – however we currently cannot make any promises!****



Flock Health Club

Mike and Paul hosted a preliminary meeting in December about forming a flock health club. The meeting prompted a good discussion about how vets and sheep farmers can work more closely to improve health and profitability. We are interested to know what clients would like to include in club membership and hope to discuss this further at the upcoming lunchtime meeting.

Part of the focus of the group will be collecting data to try to establish local benchmarks and compare flock performance within the Lothians. To try to help with this, there will be free lambing record wall posters available for collection at the sheep meeting on 13th February.

If you would like more information about the Flock Health Club then please contact the practice.

Farmers Meeting

Mike will be leading a meeting for sheep clients at **12 o'clock** on the 13th February at The Stair Arms, Pathhead. You should hopefully have received invitations with further details. This meeting is kindly sponsored by MSD Animal Health.

Pie and chips will be provided for lunch to tempt you in!

Farm Animal Practice, RDSVS, Easter Bush Veterinary Centre, Roslin, Midlothian, EH25 9RG
Telephone: 0131 445 4468 Out of Hours Emergencies: 01223 849835 Fax: 0131 650 8836

farmanimalpractice@ed.ac.uk www.ed.ac.uk/vet/farmanimal

The University of Edinburgh is a charitable body, registered in Scotland, with registration number SC005336