

IBR monitoring and risks

Establishing your dairy herd's status for Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis (IBR) and identifying farm specific risk factors should be a priority when looking to protect health and performance in all ages of stock. The highly contagious nature of IBR, along with the widespread and varying signs of the disease, means exposure at any level can have severe implications to both adult and young cattle.

Caused by bovine herpes virus, BHV-1, the signs of IBR include problems in the upper respiratory tract. This can show as fever, coughing and discharge from the nose and eyes, with the virus often adding to the weight of youngstock pneumonia problems in dairy herds.

BHV-1 can also cause milk drop, embryonic losses/abortions and general fertility problems in milking cows. All these signs are collated together and talked about under the umbrella of IBR.

The virus is spread by nose-to-nose contact and potentially through bull semen, with the disease shown to be present in nearly three-quarters of dairy herds (*MSD Animal Health's DairyCheck*).

Once infected, an animal has the potential to become a latent carrier and spread the virus in times of stress (e.g. calving) even without showing signs of illness.

This can cause a resurgence of problems in an infected herd or could introduce the problem to a naive herd if exposed for the first time, for example by a bought-in, latently infected animal.

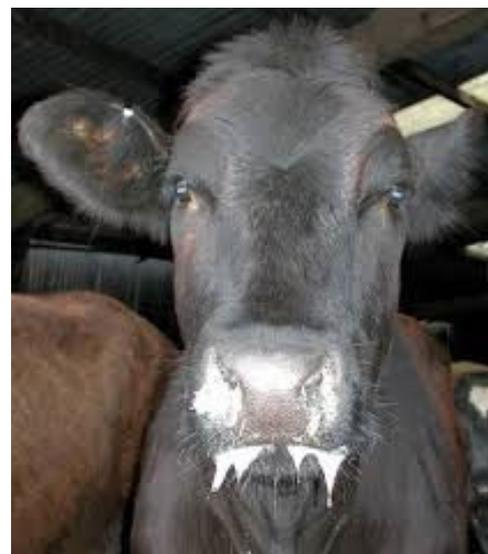
Recent studies show that on average, latent animals produce 173 litres less milk per year and beef animals take four weeks longer to finish. Thus having significant financial implications.

IBR control should be part of your farm specific health plan, to minimise the risks from all infectious disease. This may involve monitoring through bulk milk sampling and youngstock surveillance testing to maintain a check on your herd's status.

Vaccination will limit disease transmission between animals, helping to protect uninfected animals. Carried out correctly, vaccination should also reduce the intensity and duration of clinical signs. Using a live marker vaccine means surveillance testing can continue to be carried out after vaccination, as vaccinated animals can be distinguished from animals exposed to wild type IBR.

MSD have updated their vaccination datasheet stating that the IBR live vaccine has the ability to offer protection for "**up to 12 months**". This is very dependent on farm prevalence and those currently vaccinating at six month intervals are likely to have disease levels requiring continuation of such.

Contact the practice for more information on IBR control and eradication in your dairy herd, and the benefits of establishing a bespoke herd health plan.



Vaccine shortage

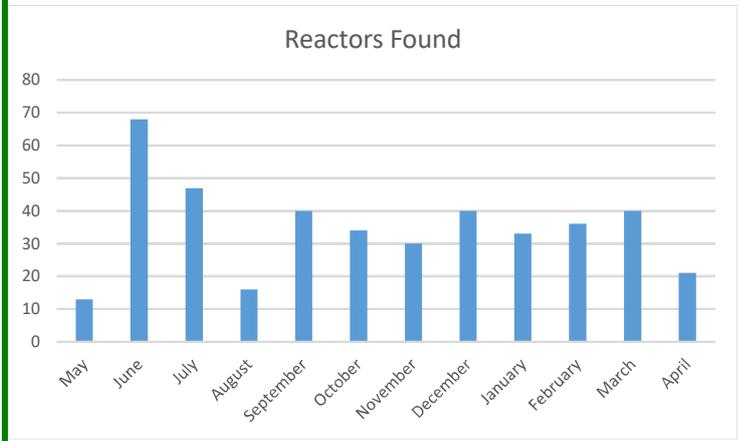
You may be aware that there has been a problem with the supply of Leptavoid-H leptospirosis vaccine. There have been multiple batch failures at the manufactur-



ing plant and to date the reason for this has not been clearly established. It is very unlikely they will resume production until later this year. Fortunately an alternative is available although obviously pressure on supply of this is high. If you know you need leptospirosis vaccine for your cows in the coming months please make sure you order in plenty of time to avoid supply problems

TB Reactors found

The number of reactors we are finding on farms in our area are shown on the graph below, we will keep you updated with this information periodically



CheCS TB accreditation

Cattle Health Certification Standards (CheCS) have accreditation schemes for BVD, IBR, Lepto, Johnes, Neospora and now bovine TB (bTB). CheCS accredited farms could be exempt from the more frequent Tb testing which has been proposed for 2019. The planned change would be that herds in the high risk area will be tested very six months rather than annually.



Alongside the statutory Tb testing run by APHA, CheCS accreditation adds

the benefit of awarding a risk status to each holding based on location and breakdown history. CheCS provides the framework of good biosecurity practices and a planned approach to reduce disease which rewards on-farm efforts to minimise the risk of a breakdown.

Somerset and Wiltshire are classified as a high risk area, and therefore CheCS accreditation would be beneficial to:

1. Farms with low-risk holdings who sell livestock and want their status acknowledged
2. Farms who buy in livestock and want to minimise the exposure of their herd to bTB
3. Farms who are already members of CheCS schemes who would like to include bTB as a disease that they are controlling pro-actively.

If you are interested or have any questions about CheCS bTB Herd Accreditation, call the practice on 01373 451115 and ask for Emily.

Greg's Useless Fact!

You will certainly of heard of déjà vu but have you ever heard of presque vu ? This is the sensation that something is on the tip of your tongue but you can't recall it, such as a word or name. It is thought to be related to the pattern of words preceding the word which forms a block in the brain which may affect other people as well in the conversation. Or of course you may just be getting old and senile.

