



Tysul Vets

Farm Newsletter

November 2022

Last chance for Free BVD Screening

Current funding for free Youngstock Screening and financial support for PI Hunting through Gwaredu BVD ends on 31 December 2022.

If you have not screened your herd yet in 2022, call us today and we can arrange your next screen this winter.

What's next for BVD eradication in Wales?

The Welsh Government consultation on mandatory BVD testing closed on 25 August 2022. We all eagerly await the Government decision on the next phase of BVD eradication in Wales.

Until the next stage of BVD eradication in Wales is published by the Welsh Government, take advantage of Free Youngstock Screening through Gwaredu BVD, and get your herd prepared.

If you screen negative, you will receive a Gwaredu BVD certificate in the post. Alternatively, if you screen positive there is financial support available for PI hunt funding, if a PI Hunt is recommended.



Please get in touch before the scheme closes and we will do our best to arrange testing before the end of the year.

WHAT3WORDS - In rural areas where post codes don't always get you to where you want to be, there is a new online tool that can help. **What3Words** is a useful tool for finding places.



Every 3-metre square of the world has been given a unique combination of three words – you can pick whichever square you want to use. This information can then be used to find you. Anyone can use the What3Words website, or you can download the app and then pick the most useful square i.e. the bottom of the farm drive or field entrance. It is also worth memorising yours or having the app on your phone as emergency services call handlers can use them too. Let us know your w3w the next time you speak to the office.

Tysul Vets w3w is:- [prefect.compacts.staples](https://www.pfcompact.com)

Vacancy – Approved TB Tester (ATT)

Approved TB Testers

Following a trial in England, Welsh Government and APHA have now approved the use of Approved Tuberculin Testers (ATTs) in Wales. Tysul Vets is now looking for an ATT to join its team.

ATTs are approved to carry out TB testing on farms, following rigorous training and supervision to gain a qualification. Suitable candidates will need to meet the following criteria

- Have previous cattle handling experience – minimum 6 months
- GCSEs (or the equivalent) in Maths, English and a Science or Food Production OR 3 years experience in a government regulatory role such as a Local authority Inspector or Environmental Health Officer
- Flexibility in hours
- Good communication and IT skills
- Full, clean UK Driving Licence

Training will be a mix of online learning and after the successful completion of an examination a period of on-farm practical supervised testing will commence. Training is expected to take a minimum of 3 months. The vacancy is for a permanent post of a 4-day week, Monday, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Salary will be dependent on experience. If you are interested or know of someone that might be interested, then please get in touch by email to spj@tysulvets.co.uk or telephone us on 01559 363318 to speak to the clinical or Practice Directors.

More information can be found on our website www.tysulvets.co.uk under the Vacancies section.

Responsible Use of Medicines Course



Don't forget that all Dairy farms require evidence of some farm staff having been trained in the responsible use and administration of medicines. We will be holding a refresher training course soon which is approved by Red Tractor. Please let us know if you wish to book some places on the course.

Calf pneumonia

By Liz Harries, MRCVS

Calf pneumonia is one of the biggest problems seen in youngstock in both the dairy and beef sector; and is the most common post-mortem finding in calves under 5 months old.

Calf pneumonia cost the UK cattle industry approximately £80 million per year with the biggest cost to the farmer being the reduction in daily live weight gain of calves. So, whether you are rearing calves for fattening or breeding female replacements a pneumonia outbreak in the calves first winter can have a serious knock on effect on age at finishing and reaching a suitable size to bull.

Clinical Signs of Pneumonia in Calves

Coughing

Dullness, depression, inappetance.

Increased respiratory rate

Raised temperature

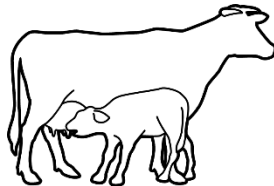
Major Pathogens

Viruses: RSV, PI3, IBR

Mycoplasma

Bacteria: Mannheimia haemolytica, Haemophilus somnus

Lungworm: usually only older animals at pasture.



Risk Factors

Mixing groups:

- Calves from different sources
- Calves of different ages
- Vaccinated with unvaccinated calves
- Sick with healthy calves

Transport: recently purchased calves from markets etc.

Environment:

- Poor ventilation and airflow.
- Damp.
- Incorrect stocking density: both too few and too many calves can predispose to problems.

Nutrition:

- Inadequate milk intake
- Mineral and Vitamin Deficiencies
- Weaning changes

Immunity: Maternally Derived Antibodies decline in the normal calf at around 12 weeks.

Other concurrent diseases and stresses. E.g. diarrhoea, castration, dehorning.

Prevention and Management

Many of the risk factors mentioned above contribute to each other, hence making a few changes to your calf rearing regime and management can have a huge positive effect on the output from your system.

- Adequate colostrum intake of high quality at birth.
- Reduce stress factors – minimise group changes during the early period, do not carry out castration and dehorning around weaning time.
- Housing – correctly designed ventilation, separate airspaces, correct stocking density and groups of no more than 20 calves.
- Mixing – do not mix calves of different ages or from different groups. Separate calves from older cattle, brought in stock and sick animals.
- Disease Management – picking up early disease signs, separating calves and treating early in disease progression.
- Take temperatures of suspicious cases – calves often become pyrexia before clinical signs show. Calves with a temperature over 39.5°C (103F) are more likely to progress to pneumonia signs.

Treatment

- When using antibiotic treatment for pneumonia the aim is to control the secondary bacterial infections that commonly occur. Antibiotic choice is very important as not all are effective. Anti-inflammatories are also commonly used as these help reduce the damage to the respiratory system that the disease causes.
- Vaccination is an important tool in helping control pneumonia used alongside making changes to the environment to reduce risk of spread of infection. The most effective vaccination programmes should be timed so that calves are fully covered before the usual risk period.

Vaccines

If you are thinking of starting or re-starting, vaccinating your cattle but unsure of the costs and benefits, please give us a call on 01559 363318 or vets@tysulvets.co.uk, some vaccines have special offers in place and we can provide you with advice and prices

www.tysulvets.co.uk