

# Hale Veterinary group



## Farm Newsletter

November 2014

It looks like winter is definitely here, with colder, wetter weather beginning to hit home. We are beginning to see a few pneumonia cases, so making sure ventilation is adequate alongside ensuring calves are warm enough will help limit this before too many problems arrive. BVD can also be at the route of pneumonia outbreaks, so now is the time to ensure you have a BVD programme in place!

We have had excellent success with controlling BVD on many farms in the last few months, with several of our farms managing to confirm the eradication of BVD from the herd. We now have a number of farms on BVD investigation programmes, involving eliminating the disease from the herd, something which is likely to save around £9,000 per 100 cows, a worthwhile investment if ever there was one.

Eradicating BVD is definitely feasible for most modern dairy herds, and does not take as much time or financial input as might be thought. Some milk producers are now insisting a BVD scheme is in place, showing how important this disease is at all levels of the industry.

BVD centres around the few animals that are persistently infected with the virus (PIs), continuing to shed the virus to the rest of the herd. Eliminating these animals, alongside vaccination and biosecurity is an excellent method of ensuring your calves and fertility are the best they can be.

Feel free to contact one of our farm team for a chat about BVD, we are always happy to work out which way is best to tackle this expensive disease for each individual farm.

If you wish to discuss any of the issues raised in our newsletters, please contact one of our farm vets who will be happy to discuss them with you.

If you would prefer this newsletter electronically please let us know.

A huge congratulations to our farm vet Steve Shiles, on the birth of his second daughter. Tabitha-Rose is already significantly better looking than her dad.

We would also like to welcome our current locum vet Andrew, who will be with us whilst Donal is getting his hip sorted out. Andrew is applying for a visa to begin working as a cattle vet in the USA, hopefully the immigrations team are nice and slow so we can keep him for a few months!

If there is anything else people would like being included in newsletters please let the practice know and we can make sure we cover useful topics.