


September 2017 Farm Newsletter





**NEW
ADVANCED
BREEDING SERVICE**
We are now providing a full embryo flushing and transfer service.
Contact us to find out more.

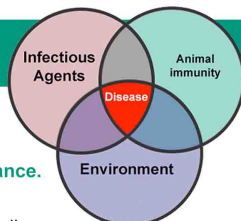
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Respiratory disease

Respiratory disease is estimated to cost the UK cattle industry £80 million annually through increased mortality, veterinary drug costs and most importantly weight loss/ reduced performance.

Whilst the effects on clinically affected animals are obvious often, the rest of the group will be affected sub-clinically resulting in reduced growth rates. Prevention is vital as many animals never fully recover from severe cases. Prevention is through a combination of good management, good ventilation, and effective vaccination protocols prior to the risk period (housing/ weaning).

Respiratory disease occurs when environmental factors, infectious agents and inadequate immunity come together and tip the balance in favour of the disease. In beef systems, stressful events such as dehorning and castration are best undertaken before housing, or delayed until calves have been housed for at least 6 weeks.



Common viral causes of pneumonia are:

- Infectious bovine rhinotracheitis (IBR)
- Bovine respiratory syncytial virus (BRSV)
- Parainfluenza-3 virus (PI3)
- Bovine virus diarrhoea virus (BVD)

Common bacterial causes are:

- Mannheimia haemolytica
- Pasteurella multocida
- Haemophilus somni

Ventilation is key!

The minimum recommended air changes within a building are 10 times each hour, increasing in summer up to around 60 air changes per hour. High ammonia levels from manure irritate the respiratory tract and will make the animal more vulnerable to respiratory disease. Studies shown that the ammonia levels a calf is exposed to in the first four months of life severely impact on the age at first calving, and lifetime productivity.

We are offering Subsidised Ventilation Assessments in the month of September, please contact us at the clinic to arrange yours today!