

# TERN VETS LTD

“Supporting British Farming”



OCTOBER 2014

## CALF PNEUMONIA

Respiratory disease in calves is an interaction between the environment, the immunity of the calf and the various infectious agents involved. The most important agents are Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis (IBR), Bovine Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV), *Mannheimia haemolytica*, *Pasteurella multocida*, *Histophilus somnus* and Parainfluenza-3 virus (PI3). Some financial losses come from mortality and veterinary fees, but the majority is due to lack of weight gain that can affect a large proportion of the group. Disease is best prevented by good management, appropriate building design to ensure adequate ventilation and ensuring good immunity through effective colostrum management and targeted use of vaccination against the major respiratory pathogens.

### Prevention of Respiratory Disease:

#### 1. GOOD BUILDING DESIGN

Air should enter at the eaves and exit at the ridge. This draws stale hot air from on top of the calves up and away and is called the “stack effect”. The aim should be for 6 air changes per hour on a still day. The ridge opening should be 300mm minimum, with a cap at least 150mm above the ridge.

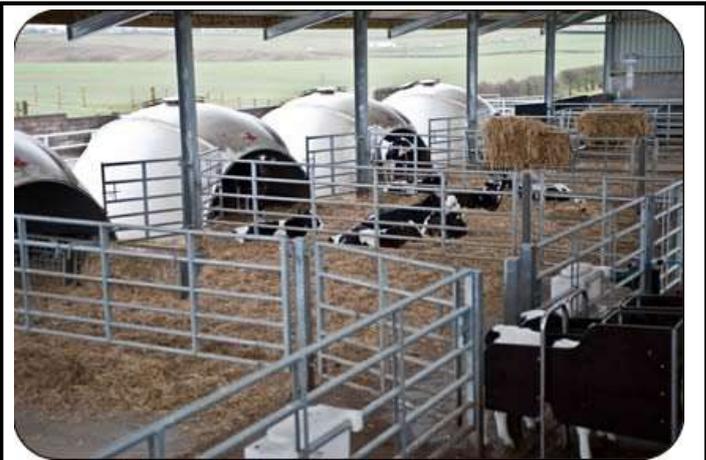
#### 2. GOOD MANAGEMENT & HUSBANDRY

Keeping stocking density low by allowing 10cubic metres per 90kg calf. Avoid stress when recently housed (e.g disbudding or de-horning). Do not mix animals of different ages or from different sources in the same air space.

#### 3. EFFECTIVE VACCINATION

Know the diseases that are commonly seen on the unit by blood sampling homebred, non-vaccinated animals 8-10months old and utilise vaccinations to boost immunity if needed.

**TALK TO YOUR VET ABOUT  
VACCINATION PLANNING FOR YOUR  
FARM.**





## CLINICAL

## AD-

### VICE FOR PNEUMONIA:

- Try not to buy calves from too many sources or from markets as the stress will predispose the animals to pneumonia in the first few weeks on your farm—if possible buy from known, trusted sellers where you know they will have had adequate colostrum.
- Ensure there is adequate ventilation—speak to your vet about how you can improve your buildings to improve ventilation.
- Keep stocking densities low at the start of housing—whilst a building may handle 50 calves at 90kg each, by the end of the housing period the calves will be twice this weight and will need twice the space to keep optimum ventilation.
- Vaccinate animals if you have history of pneumonia on your farm—but make sure you improve ventilation and ensure good early colostrum intake alongside, as vaccination alone is not enough to eradicate the problem.
- At the first sign of disease, take rectal temperatures of the group so you can catch the disease early in its progress.
- Make sure you have a plan in place for antibiotic and anti-inflammatory choice - your vet can help with this.
- Mark treated calves so that you can keep a close eye on these in particular and monitor effectiveness of treatment.

## DRUGS UPDATE:

### **Nuflor Minidose**

The 250ml size bottle has now been discontinued but the 100ml bottle is still in stock.

Florfenical is a rapid acting antibiotic that penetrates into the lung tissue well and is a popular choice for many farmers but remember to add in anti-inflammatory drugs alongside to reduce temperature, pain and improve feed intakes, weight gain and recovery.

### **UBRO YELLOW IS BACK!**

We're pleased to announce that Ubro Yellow is back in stock. It's a great antibiotic tube for E. Coli type mastitis. Ubro Red should be back in stock by the end of the month.

## DATE FOR YOUR DIARY:

### **Autumn Dairy Meeting**

“The Dry Cow Period” with James Husband

Thursday November 27th

The Four Alls, Tyrley.



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