



Tern Vets Ltd

PUTTING CARE INTO PRACTICE

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OFFICE HOURS:

Mon-Fri 08.30-18.00

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Your dedicated farm
team available 24/7



National Action Group on Johne's

The National Action Group on Johne's is "an industry wide initiative aiming to engage at least 80% of UK dairy farmers in credible and robust Johne's management activities by October 2016".

Johne's disease is a chronic, debilitating and irreversible disease of cattle caused by infection with the bacteria *Mycobacterium avium subsp. paratuberculosis* (MAP). 80% of infections occur in the first month of life - mostly from ingesting infected adult muck (contaminated bedding, dirty teats, contaminated milk) but also to a lesser extent through infected milk or via the womb. Infected animals will test negative for the disease for up to several years before the disease progresses, they start to spread MAP in their muck and at that point the tests start to be able to pick up the antibodies.

Most milk buyers are starting to ask questions about your plan for controlling Johne's disease - testing to pick up infected animals as soon as possible has got to be part of the control plan, but stopping the cycle of infecting young calves has got to be the ultimate focus.

We usually start with a "30 oldest cow" screen for herds with no history of Johne's testing then quarterly test all milking animals to build up a picture of infection. Suckler units usually test with blood samples to include all adults over 2 years - we can do this on day one of your TB test - please mention this to Michelle when you book your TB test in.

Based on all these results we'd do a Johne's Control Plan to review your risk factors for Johne's coming onto the farm, as well as the risk of Johne's spreading between animals on your farm. The emphasis will be discussing *practical* solutions that stop the infection cycle of young calves, as well as planning what to do with the infected animals.

TIMESCALE FOR ACTION GROUP:

Phase 1: assess the risks of entry, presence and spread of Johne's infection on your farm (MARCH 2016)

Phase 2: implement one of the 6 control strategies with your vet (OCTOBER 2016)



PLEASE SPEAK TO YOUR VET TO GET INVOLVED

Controlling Digital Dermatitis in Winter

The onset of cold, wet winter weather plus housing of cattle can present challenges when it comes to managing infectious foot conditions such as Digital dermatitis (DD). Often levels of DD increase over the winter housing period as the cattle are in closer and prolonged contact with slurry.

CONTROLLING DIGITAL DERMATITIS:

Cleanliness is key when it comes to preventing infection with DD so review scraping out frequencies and make sure there are no “hot spots” of pooled slurry which act as reservoirs for the bacteria. Heifers that haven't come into contact with DD can really suffer when they join the milking herd so prompt treatment of affected individuals with topical antibiotics such as Engemycin spray, is vital. Formalin is a popular footbath for **preventing** DD as it hardens the hoof which makes it harder for the bacteria causing DD to get in - but it would be painful for animals to walk through with active lesions so make sure animals infected with DD are treated first before joining the footbath program. Formalin is also temperature sensitive and is inactivated in temperatures below 7°C so alternative such as copper or zinc sulphate should be used.

WINTER FOOTBATHING CONSIDERATIONS:

- Make sure cows have access to clean yards after footbathing
- Only use Formalin if the temperatures are over 7°C
- Change footbath treatment solution every 150-200 cows
- Thoroughly drain and rinse footbath before mixing a new batch of solution

HOW OFTEN SHOULD YOU BE FOOTBATHING?

Leg hygiene scores can help determine footbath frequency.

- 25-50% score 3/4: 2 days per week
- 51-75% score 3/4: 5 days per week
- >75% score 3/4: 7 days per week



UDDER CARE LAUNCH

Udder Care is a holistic approach to udder health developed by Tern Vets using the very latest research. Find out more about Udder Care and how it can improve udder health for your cows on your farm:

Friday 11th December at 12.30pm or Tuesday 15th December at 7.30pm
at Fordhall Farm, Market Drayton, TF9 3PS

Please confirm date and numbers with Michelle
by 1st December on 01630 656300

