



## NOVEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

### MASTITIS VACCINATIONS

Vets recently had a meeting with HIPRA about their two vaccinations for mastitis, **STARTVAC** and **UBAC**. Mastitis is still a big issue for the dairy sector in terms of **animal welfare and financial impact** despite significant improvements. These two vaccines help reduce cases and clinical signs of infection from different bacteria. **STARTVAC** works against **Staphs** including *S. aureus*, and *E. coli*. **UBAC** works against ***Strep. uberis***.

As they target different types of bacteria, it is **essential to test milk samples** to know which vaccine is likely to make a difference on your farm.

Where vaccination can be used:

- Farms with **severe clinical mastitis** issues. It is important to remember that vaccination is only one piece of the puzzle when it comes to controlling mastitis. Vaccination works to **reduce the number of clinically affected cows**; it will not stop them picking up the bacteria if there are other issues.
- Farms striving to **lower Somatic Cell Count (SCC)**. Vaccination can help lower SCC by **stopping bacteria from reproducing**, hence fewer white blood cells are needed to fight infection.

For both **STARTVAC** and **UBAC**, the dose is 2ml per animal. We can provide tailored advice in creating a **vaccination schedule for your system**. Animals are vaccinated **3-4 times per year** to provide optimum immunity. Please contact us for more information if you think this could be beneficial.



**DOOP BINS** RCVS asked us to encourage farmers to bring back used or out of date DOOP (syringes and medicine bottles etc). You can purchase a DOOP bin for bulk disposal and then return to us when full.

**FOOTVAX AT NORTH TAWTON** As the **wet weather** settles in, sheep flocks will likely have more **infectious lameness** cases. We have ordered 25 dose bottles of Footvax into North Tawton in preparation. This vaccine can be given in the face of a lameness outbreak and will help to **lower your antibiotic usage** through the season. Call reception to reserve doses.

### LEGISLATION CHANGES REGARDING SLAUGHTER PRODUCTS

New legislation has been announced to ensure that the UK is compliant with **EU export requirements**. All farms that **sell livestock for slaughter** must have a **veterinary visit at least once per year** to certify that there are no **notifiable diseases** present and that **biosecurity** practice is adequate. This **“Statutory Health Attestation”** will be mandatory from **13<sup>th</sup> December 2023**. This paperwork can be done at any **routine vet visit**, such as at a TB test, herd health or Animal Health and Welfare Pathway visit. Records of the paperwork must be kept by the farmer and the vet. If your farm is part of the **Red Tractor scheme**, this documentation can be used as a valid veterinary declaration.

## REMINDER: RED TRACTOR PAPERWORK NOT BEING COMPLETED



When completing Red Tractor paperwork with one of the vets, please check that you have filled out both a **Health Plan** and **Health and Performance Records** for your relevant sector- beef, sheep and/or dairy. The vet can bring along an Antibiotics Review. This month we have been given several **incomplete sets** and this has taken time to rectify. **Vets cannot sign the Veterinary Review** without reading and discussing these forms. Save yourself being **billed extra vet time** by having both documents ready before your vet visit. If you are unsure **where to find the templates**, contact reception or follow this link: <https://redtractorassurance.org.uk/templates/>

## DISEASE FORECAST - MIDGES SPREADING VIRUSES

You may be aware of the recent cases of **bluetongue virus (BTV)** in the Netherlands and **epizootic haemorrhagic disease virus (EHDV)** in Italy, Spain, Portugal, and France. Last month, the Netherlands reported BTV for the first time since 2009, there have since been **over 2000 outbreaks** and more expected until the **midge's activity** reduces. There have also been recent BTV cases in France, causing clinical signs in sheep, goats and cattle. The midges become infective after biting an animal with BTV or EHD, they spread it to other animals they feed from and cause new cases in ruminant livestock, which are then **infected for life**.

It is possible for midges to **cross the channel** and the disease risk to the UK will be highest around the South and East coast of England. **Vaccination** is available against some but not all strains of BTV. There are no vaccines against EHDV. **Exporting of animals and germinal products** from France has been disrupted since 21<sup>st</sup> September 2023 and from the Netherlands from 5<sup>th</sup> Sept 2023. Please be vigilant with imported live animals or germinal products recent to those dates. If you suspect either disease in your stock, contact the practice to speak to a vet for more information.

**EHDV symptoms** are seen in predominantly **deer and cattle**, they include:

- reduced feeding
- weakness
- ulcers in and around the mouth
- drooling
- swelling and redness above the hooves
- skin rash over the udder
- sudden death

**BTV symptoms** can be mild or severe, present in **goats, sheep, and cattle**. They may include:

- mouth ulcers
- mucous from nose and mouth
- blood pools under the skin
- lack of appetite
- lameness
- milk drop
- swelling of the face/ neck/ around the hooves
- reddening and crusting on the teats
- Abortion or abnormal and weak calves

Any animals that test positive for BTV will be culled and movement restrictions applied to the farm until it is confirmed that the disease has not spread to any other susceptible animals.

**DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR** Smallholders Club practical class on Ruminant Lameness. Free for all SHC members, £30 for non-members. This meeting will be held at the North Tawton practice on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023. Please contact the practice by telephone or email [shc@northparkvets.co.uk](mailto:shc@northparkvets.co.uk) to book your places.



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