

BELLE VUE VETS

NEWSLETTER JUNE 2013



Dear Client,

NEW VACCINE AVAILABLE MID JUNE

Schmallenberg Virus (SBV)

This new disease is named after the town in Germany where it was first identified in 2011. The disease quickly spread across Northern Europe and into the South of England in late summer 2011.

Animals affected by SBV

Sheep, Cattle, Goats, Alpacas, Deer

How is SBV spread?

Midges (and possibly via bull semen)

Clinical Signs

In adult sheep and beef cattle, they are so mild they will go unnoticed. In adult dairy cattle there are a few reports of milk drop, high temperature and loss of appetite.

However, it is the effect on the unborn foetus which is most striking with serious deformities of the skeleton causing stiff joints, spinal deformities and major lesions in the brain.

The main risk period is between 28-60 days of pregnancy in sheep and 80-140 days of pregnancy in cattle.

Are humans at risk?

Unlikely – no illness reported from Northern Europe and no problems from eating meat or milk products.

SBV in Cumbria 2013

The VLA lab at Penrith have diagnosed the disease in farms from every part of Cumbria. We have seen the problem on one Beef Farm where blood testing proved that the virus had infected the homebred cows which produced deformed calves. We sampled 5 dairy farms this winter and there was no sign of the disease. It would seem that the cold summer/autumn of 2012 has slowed the spread northwards of the virus. The problem with this is that the cattle and sheep in the North of Cumbria have not met the disease and will therefore have no natural immunity. If your animals meet the virus early this summer the natural immunity will protect for the rest of the year.

A bulk milk sample from dairies or 6 blood samples from beef cows/sheep will allow us to decide if vaccination is needed.

The Vaccine

It is an inactivated vaccine. MSD are on the point of launching the vaccine in the next few weeks. The same vaccine is used in both cattle and sheep with sheep getting a single dose of 2mls and cattle 2 doses each of 2mls intramuscularly (4 weeks apart). Both sheep and cattle need to be fully vaccinated 3 weeks before serving with the tup/bull.

Withdrawal: there is zero meat and milk withdrawal

Precautions

1. Do not use in pregnant animals
2. Do not use in male animals (this may be altered following further testing by MSD)
3. Do not use other vaccines or treatments on the same day as vaccination
4. Do not vaccinate cattle below 2months old and sheep below 4months old

Price

£3.23 - £3.47 per dose (depends on whether using the 50 dose pack or 10 dose pack)