

Avian Influenza Prevention Zone - Update



24 February 2017

This update is to inform you that guidance on the disease control measures that come into force on 28 February has been published on the gov.uk website:

www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu#prevention-zone

A new Avian Influenza Prevention Zone will be put in place on 28 February until 30 April 2017.

The requirements of the new Avian Influenza Prevention Zone will enable the majority of keepers to allow their birds outside, provided that certain precautions are taken; while keepers whose premises are considered to be within an identified Higher Risk Area will be required to adhere to stricter controls.

You should refer to the interactive map on www.gisdiseasemap.defra.gov.uk/intmaps/avian/map.jsp to identify whether you are in a Higher Risk Area.

Orf

The Importance of Vaccinating your Lambs



Orf is a constant and recurrent threat to the productivity and performance of a sheep flock.

Avoid poor lamb growth rates by vaccinating your lambs against orf, affected lambs are on average 2.2 kg lighter than unaffected lambs¹ which will have financial implications.

Orf is a painful skin disease of sheep and goats and is common throughout the UK. It can strike at any time of the year and affects sheep of any age, but is most commonly seen just after lambing. Animals with orf develop scabby lesions around the mouth and nostrils, although the infection may also affect other parts of the body, for example the inside of the mouth, the lower legs and, in particular, the teats of nursing ewes.

Suckling lambs infected with orf run the risk of transmitting the virus to the ewe's udder which can lead to mastitis and potentially the loss of the affected half. Lambs with orf lesions may be disinclined to suck and, equally, ewes with sore teats may not let their lambs feed. Together this can result in undernourished lambs and/or the virus being spread to other ewes as infected lambs try to feed from others.

1. Lovatt et al (2012) Case-control study of orf in pre-weaned lambs and an assessment of the financial impact of the disease Veterinary Record 170: 673

Call us for more information

Routine opening hours
Mon - Fri 8.30am - 6.00pm
Sat 8.30am - 12.00 noon

24hr Emergency Services
Tel: 01746 713 911



BVD Free England

What is BVD?

Bovine Viral Diarrhoea or BVD is a highly contagious viral disease of cattle. It is one of the biggest disease issues facing the UK cattle industry.

The majority of BVD infections occur after birth. Signs of BVD aren't always obvious and the costs can be hidden:

- Reproductive losses – early embryonic death, returns to service, abortions
- Secondary disease - immune suppression increases the chances of pneumonia and scour in calves, lameness and mastitis in adults
- Poor production - lower milk yield, poor growth rates, increased cull rates
- Deaths – commonly through secondary infection

Persistently Infected animals (PIs)

If cows and heifers become infected within the first 120 days of gestation, the unborn calf may become persistently infected, this is the only way this can occur. A calf cannot become a PI after birth.

PIs will shed high quantities of BVD virus into their environment for their entire life. They are the most significant source of infection to other cattle.

Within infected herds, PIs often only account for 1 or 2 out of every 100 animals. It is contact with these PI animals that leads to infection of other animals within your herd, causing the signs listed above.

How does BVD spread?

BVD virus is commonly spread:

- From infected dams to their unborn calf
- Through the semen of infected bulls
- From nose to nose contact with infected carriers.

Vaccinating can help control the disease - **but will not eradicate the disease** in infected stock – so you might be vaccinating and still have BVD on your farm.

Many UK herds have already been exposed to the virus, but there are many at constant risk of re-introduction of the disease due to:

- Unknowingly buying in PI animals
- Infection from neighbouring farms
- Contact with infected animals at markets and shows

How can I tell if I have PI animals?

Sometimes PIs have stunted growth and rough coats, although more frequently they will appear completely normal.

Antibody tests can be used to tell you whether your herd has been exposed to BVD. Identification of individual PI animals can be done through testing blood or tissue samples.

All PI animals, once identified, must be removed from the herd. This is essential to successfully eradicate BVD.

Talk to your Severn Edge Farm Vets to develop an effective screening programme to establish the BVD status of your herd.



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