



# CATTLE VACCINATIONS - UPDATE

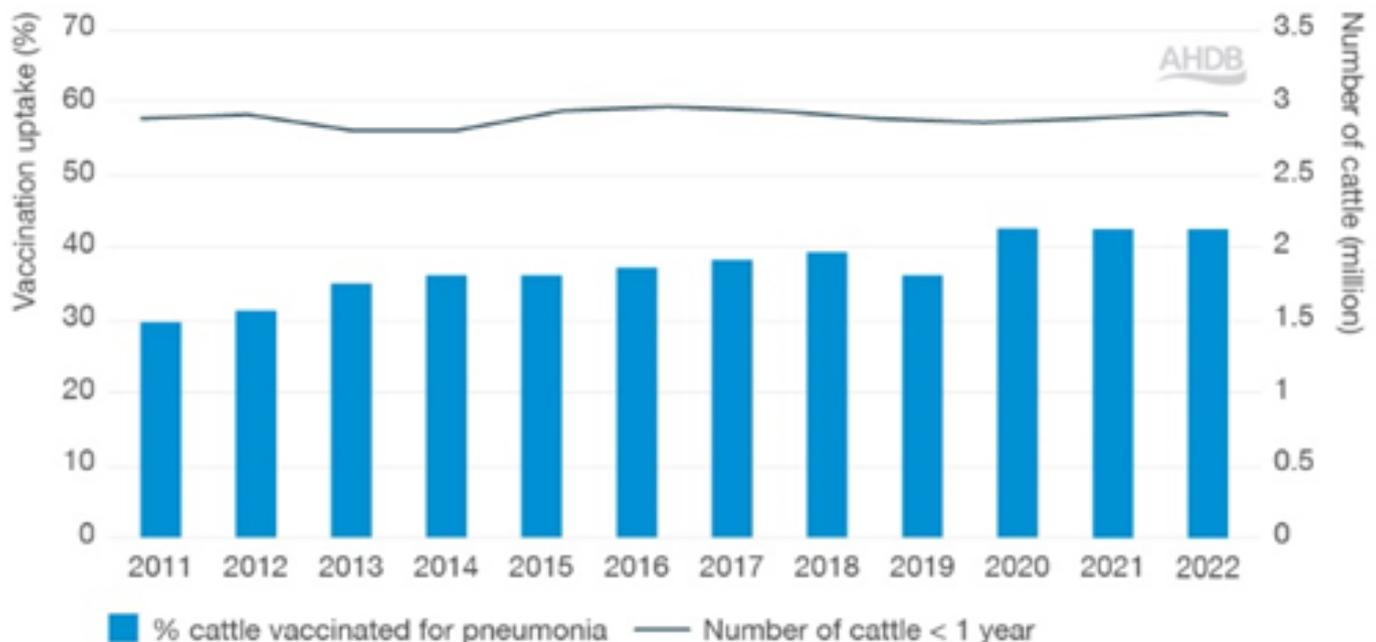


APRIL 2024

Effective vaccination protocols are becoming increasingly important as we push for lower levels of disease and antibiotic usage. They play a key role in reducing losses associated with death, abortions and sick animals as well as sub clinical disease. Whilst vaccines come at a cost, they are often a wise investment to limit the financial implications associated with disease outbreaks.



Cattle vaccine sales in the UK have grown by 18% between 2011-2022 with a particular increase in calf pneumonia (45%) and calf enteritis (37%) vaccine uptake (AHDB). Calf scour and pneumonia are often associated with high levels of mortality and morbidity so it is not surprising that an increasing number of farmers are seeing the cost benefit of vaccinating against these diseases.



**For example;** the average cost of a clinical case of pneumonia ranges from £30-80 per animal (higher if the animal dies). This figure doesn't include other hidden costs such as decreased daily live weight gain. The most commonly used pneumonia vaccine is an intranasal vaccine which provides rapid protection against viral causes of pneumonia for roughly 10 weeks. This comes at a cost of £8-10 per calf but can quickly pay for itself by reducing cases and severity of clinical and sub-clinical disease. It is important to note though, that vaccination is not a 'silver bullet' and good management practices are still paramount in controlling disease.

## Vaccination Protocols

Every farm will have a different vaccination regime dependent on risk factors and attitudes to risk. Below is a table showing the most common diseases which are vaccinated against and the associated vaccination protocol (based on current datasheet recommendations). I have not included pneumonia vaccinations as these protocols tend to be very farm specific.

Disease	Brand Names	Primary course	Booster dose
Leptospirosis	Spirovac, Leptavoid H	Two doses, 4 weeks apart (pre breeding)	Annually
BVD	Bovilis BVD, Bovela	Bovela- single dose	Annually
		Bovilis BVD- two doses 4 weeks apart	
		(pre breeding)	
IBR	Bovilis IBR marker live	Two doses, 6 months apart	Either 6 monthly or annually
Calf scour	Rotavec corona, Bovigen scour		One dose given 3-12 weeks pre-calving
Lungworm	Huskvac	Two doses, 4 weeks apart (pre turnout)	Not usually required
Clostridial (Blackleg)	Covexin 10, Bravoxin	Two doses, 4-6 weeks apart	Either 6 monthly or annually

- **Focus on getting the primary course correct** - this primes the immune system and ensures subsequent boosters maintain immunity effectively. Set reminders to order and administer second doses in a timely manner
- **Get timings correct** - vaccination regimes usually need to be completed at least two weeks before the risk period for the disease being vaccinated against e.g. pre turnout for lungworm
- **Review protocols with your vet** - many factors on farm can change so keep your vet informed to keep the herd protected
- **Keep good records** - make a note of which animals have been vaccinated so none slip through the net

### Storage and Handling Tips

- **Plan your visit to pick up vaccines** - don't pick up first thing and leave them in a warm vehicle all day. Try to get them back to farm ASAP and into the fridge.
- **Invest in a cool bag** - useful to transport vaccines back to farm and keeping them cool during administration if they are going to be out the fridge for several hours
- **Check your fridge temperature** - place a temperature gauge inside your fridge to make sure it is the temperature it should be

### Administration Tips

- **Check the datasheet** - check the correct dosage and administration route, calibrate vaccination guns
- **Select the correct needle length and size** - this will depend on route of administration and animal size
- **Change needles regularly** - blunt needles cause muscle damage, changing them frequently also decreases the risk of needle contamination
- **Never vaccinate a sick or injured animal** - these animals are very unlikely to mount a good immune response

As always, if you would like to discuss anything in further detail or have any questions, please contact your routine vet or ring the office.

Best wishes,  
Zoe



**Cow Convention**  
Weds 10th April

HERDVISION

Forte  
Healthcare

MSD  
Animal Health

zoetis

Elanco

cogent

advanced nutrition  
moving farms forward

Boehringer  
Ingelheim

The GEORGE  
Farm Vets

Genus

40  
Celebrating  
YEARS

The Farm Consultancy Group

albutt  
the attachment people

Norbrook

DAIRY VETERINARY  
CONSULTANCY LTD  
Making lives better for cows and the people who care for them

Douglas Green  
Consulting Ltd

Last chance to register for tickets and join us on Wednesday. Tickets £14 + Vat (lunch included)

## YOUNGSTOCK MANAGEMENT AND CARE:



Covering:

- Importance of colostrum
- Assessment, treatment and prevention of pneumonia & Scour
- Feed and growth rates

Tuesday 16th April, @ Malmesbury, 1pm to 4pm. £75 + VAT



## BEEF AND SHEEP MEDICINE HANDLING COURSE:

11AM - 12PM

@ The Practice, 18th April  
£75 + VAT



## YOU'RE INVITED

to an exclusive on-farm workshop focused on OPTIMISING HERD POTENTIAL FROM TRANSITION AND BEYOND

Elanco and HerdVision are proudly collaborating to deliver a series of educational, on-farm workshops on:

Sustainable transition management for production, efficiency and health



HERDVISION Kexxtone Elanco

## EVENT INFORMATION

Join Elanco and HerdVision to understand the benefits that a comprehensive, proactive transition management strategy can have on optimising a herd's potential.

We hope you can join us at your local event:

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2024  
Old Green Farm, Earthcott,  
Alveston, Bristol, BS35 3TD

Register now!



## AGENDA

10:30am  
Meetings Start

Refreshments on arrival and lunch provided.

Farm walk and demonstration of HerdVision Camera

Talks by HerdVision and Elanco on transition health and ketosis

One attendee across all events will have the chance to win a HerdVision Camera (ex subscription) – Ts&Cs apply

2:30pm  
Close

HERDVISION Kexxtone Elanco

## Foot trimming courses

BCVA CHCSB Lantra Accredited first Aid for feet:

- 1 day course, Thursday 18th April or Thursday 6th June at Old Sodbury £300 + Vat

BCVA CHCSB Lantra Accredited Intermediate Foot Trimming:

- 3 day course building on skills learnt in First Aid for Feet and expanding on the 5 step method
- 1 day at old Sodbury and 2 days in Pewsey, £800 + Vat

For more information on our foot trimming courses please contact the office or email [technical.training@georgevetgroup.co.uk](mailto:technical.training@georgevetgroup.co.uk)

If you are interested in any of the above please contact the office on 01666 823035

COMPASSION RESPECT INTEGRITY SUSTAINABILITY PROGRESSION CARE

T: 01666 823035 Option "1" for visits or enquiries, "2" for medicines or shop, "3" for TB testing