



Understanding BVD

On Tuesday 11th February we will be hosting a meeting discussing all things BVD, 7.30PM at Wrexham Rugby Club. New regulations for Welsh farms will be coming into force this July, the meeting will be a chance for you to get a better understanding of what BVD is and what needs to be done to be compliant with the new regulations. Additionally for our English clients, we will be discussing your options after the discontinuation of the BVD free England scheme. Please contact the office if you are intending on attending.

The Use of Technology to Improve Cow Mobility Outcomes

Join us at Moreton Farm to hear more about trials using the new Cattle Eye technology to assess cow mobility, with an automated mobility monitoring system.

We will be joined by Sara Pedersen, a veterinary consultant with Farm Dynamics Ltd, who specialises in hoof health. She will be discussing the work carried out at Moreton Farm and how lameness affects the herd and business performance of any dairy farm. There will be a specific focus on the integration of technology into hoof health management programmes, and the impact that implementing best practice early detection and prompt treatment protocols has had on overall lameness at Moreton Farm. There will also be discussion about the economic savings made, return on investment, impact on greenhouse gas emissions/carbon footprint on farm based on the results seen over the course of the project.

To book your place for this event please contact Osian Hughes: osian.hughes@mentera.cymru / 07985379880

Thursday 13th March 2025, 11:00 - 14:00
Moreton Farm, Wrexham, LL13 0YH



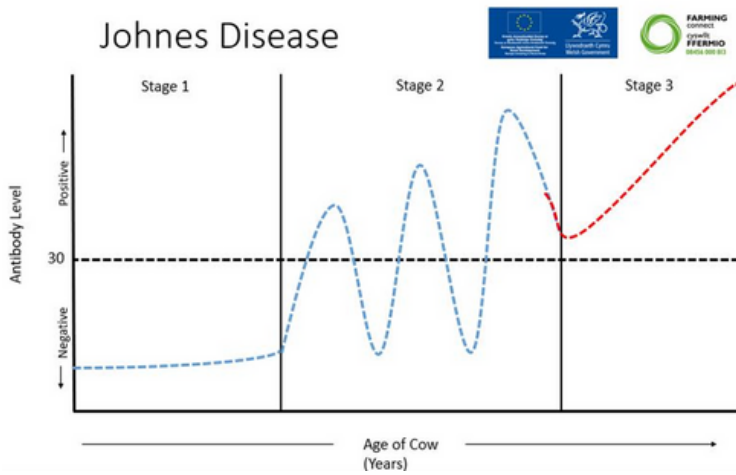
Managing Johnes in the Dairy herd

Johne's disease is caused by *Mycobacterium avium* subsp. *paratuberculosis* (MAP). In the UK, around three quarter of dairy herds are believed to be MAP-infected. Most MAP-infection is believed to be picked up in the first few days of life, mainly through ingestion of bacteria through the oro-faecal route or drinking contaminated milk. In addition to this, there is some evidence that suggests that there is a small risk of the disease being passed on to the calf through the placenta.

Clinical signs of Johnes are often not seen until 3–4 years of age. Clinically affected animals continue to deteriorate and are usually culled on welfare grounds. Financial losses are associated with increased culling costs/mortality, and subclinical costs including weight loss, reduced milk yield and poor fertility. There is no known treatment of Johnes's disease and so the current approach is prevention of transmission and removal of infectious individuals. It is well accepted that calves of cows that are Johnes's test-positive at calving are at higher risk of picking up the infection. Johnes-test positive dams are more likely to be excreting high quantities of MAP in colostrum and faeces which may contaminate the calf during calving or suckling.

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Johnes Disease



For dairy herds Johnes control plans are mandatory, and as part of this there will be set testing regimes. But what do these results mean? As shown in the graph, it's easier to split Johnes disease into three stages.

Stage 1 is where the animal is mainly hosting the hidden disease with limited impact. Testing during this stage, often below the age of two years, is generally ineffective. This is why we do not have a Johnes status for calving heifers.

As mentioned previously, the incubation of Johnes is around 3-4 years old, this is where stage 2 comes in. This is where the cow is battling with the disease with fluctuating mild symptoms. This stage is often triggered by stress through another diseases, such as Mastitis, lameness or by giving birth. The cow starts to release anti-bodies in this sub-clinical stage and may also display some symptoms such as reduced production. Testing during this period can be difficult with cows often looking healthy and showing confusing fluctuating test results affected by the ability of the cow's immune system to either fight or be overcome by the disease. As it is commonly spread through faeces stage two animals present a high risk of spreading Johnes throughout your herd, especially in calving animals.

The final stage is where the disease starts overcoming the animal's immune system. During this period, it becomes visibly easier to recognise cows with clinical signs of scouring, wasting, poor production, fertility, body condition and overall health. This is commonly seen in four or five year old cows.

Do you need help interpreting your Johnes results? Contact the office and speak to one of our vets on [01978 311444](tel:01978311444)

Changes to Red Tractor Standards

Red Tractor have updated their requirements for farms who are part of their farm assurance scheme, these changes will be effective from 1st February 2025. For clients on our herd or flock health plans we will ensure these changes are included at your next health plan review, but please contact us if you have any concerns.

There are several key changes to be aware of:

1. Prophylactic Antibiotic Use is Prohibited Except in Exceptional Circumstances – this means you are no longer allowed to use antibiotics preventatively and must have a clinical need for any use.
2. Providing a Clear Rationale for Every Prescription – As vets, our rationale for prescribing antibiotics for prophylaxis on your farm (whether for an individual or a group) must be documented alongside our reasoning and back up evidence, for each prescription.
3. Medicine Training Refresher – Farmers and their staff will need to refresh their medicine training every five years to keep up with the latest practices in responsible medicine use. At least one person on the unit must have undergone training in the last five years – either a refresher course to follow a course taken previously, or a full course approved by Red Tractor if it's the person's first training in this area.

The main change you will need to act on is that the Mastering Medicine course is now only valid for 5 years. We are intending on holding another course in the next couple of months, so get in touch to express your interest if your previous course is nearing this period, or should you wish to get further members of the farm team trained. Please email allison@dalesidevets.co.uk to get your name on the list!



TRACEABLE, SAFE
&
FARMED WITH CARE

