



Cryptosporidium meeting

Join us on for a client meeting discussing cryptosporidium and calf scours. Emilie Beck from MSD will be co-hosting, discussing the latest products they have to offer for preventative measures. Please note we have had a change of date from the last newsletter and the meeting is now held on **11th November**

Location Wrexham Rugby Club, LL13 9TY

Date 11/11/2025

Time 19:30

New TB policy

From 1st January 2026, all standard interpretation IRs that have a negative result will be restricted for the rest of their life. This affects all standard interpretation IRs that have a negative result under standard interpretation at the re-test. They will be restricted to the holding on which they were found.

The only permitted off movements for such animals are to a slaughterhouse or Approved Finishing Unit (AFU).

The cattle can move:

- directly
- via an approved slaughter gathering, or
- via a TB dedicated sale (orange market)

The restrictions will apply on IRs disclosed at standard interpretation, at any test in Wales, which then test clear under standard interpretation on or after 1st January 2026 (day 2 – TT2).

You have the option to keep the animal and manage it out of the herd considering the needs of the business. Our advice is that this animal is culled as soon as possible. If this is not the case, we advise the cow has some sort of physical mark i.e. management tag or freeze brand to easily identify her as a resolved IR.

In addition to this we recommend not feeding unpasteurised milk from resolved standard IRs to calves and don't breed replacement animals from resolved standard IRs.

Speak to a member of the team if you wish to discuss further or have some clarity on the latest policy changes.

Save the Date: December 4th, 2025

It's time to hang up the work boots and celebrate! Join us for our annual Christmas party on Thursday, December 4th, 2025. After a hard year's graft, we're bringing everyone together for a well-deserved evening of festive cheer, good food, and even better company.

7.30 PM

4/12/25

Wrexham Rugby Club





Managing Calves in Cold Weather

Newborn calves face significant challenges when temperatures drop. They enter the world with minimal energy reserves, thin hair coats, and very little subcutaneous fat for insulation. The thermoneutral zone is the temperature range in which calves are able to maintain their core body temperature. In very young calves, less than 3 weeks of age, the thermoneutral zone is between 15 and 25°C. When the environmental temperature drops below 15 °C, which is referred to as the lower critical temperature, the calf must utilise energy to support vital bodily functions and to maintain its body temperature. Older calves, more than 3 weeks of age, generate more heat by rumination and they have a lower surface area to weight ratio so lose less heat. For these reasons older calves have a lower critical temperature of 10 °C.

Quality colostrum management provides more than just immunity - it's a critical tool for cold tolerance. Beyond passive immunity and essential nutrients, colostrum directly increases a calf's ability to withstand cold exposure.

The volume of colostrum fed correlates positively with both heat production and body temperature, as the digestive process itself generates warmth through metabolic activity.

How can we help calves when the temperature dropped?

- Adjusting Milk Feeding for Cold Weather
 - When temperatures drop below the lower critical temperature, calves need additional energy to compensate for heat loss.
 - Best Practice
 - Increase the litres fed per day or add extra feeds
 - Make gradual adjustments to avoid digestive upset
 - Monitor feed quality carefully to prevent scour

- Calf Jackets
 - When temperatures fall below 15°C, jackets become a valuable management tool.
 - Key points
 - Use good quality, breathable materials
 - Maintain strict hygiene - wash jackets between calves to prevent disease transmission
- Bedding Management Straw bedding offers the best insulation when properly managed:
 - Maintain a minimum depth of 8cm
 - Keep bedding dry and clean
 - If you can see the calf's legs when lying down, add more bedding
- Housing Considerations
 - Eliminate draughts without compromising ventilation
 - Maintain adequate stocking density
 - Remember: ventilation is not the same as draughts

Every farm is different, but having a clear cold weather protocol before winter arrives will help you maintain calf performance and health. Monitor temperatures regularly and be prepared to implement these strategies when conditions drop below the lower critical temperature thresholds for your calf age groups.



We have another 30th birthday to celebrate this month! Can you guess which team member this chunky baby is?

Happy Birthday Bedwyr, enjoy your day!

