



Mycoplasma Mastitis



Recently the practice diagnosed its second outbreak of mycoplasmal mastitis. In both cases Mycoplasma Bovis was isolated and confirmed by the lab. Mycoplasma lack a cell wall, and as the cell wall is a target of many of the antibiotics used in agriculture (Penicillin, Duphadox and Synulox) they are resistant to these antibiotics. Furthermore when mycoplasma are in vivo (in the animal) they are resistant to nearly all forms of antibiotic and thus attempts to treat mastitis caused by M.Bovis is usually ineffectual and culling is often the only option as these animals remain a source of infection for the rest of the herd. In both cases the history was of an increase in clinical mastitis cases that failed to respond to therapy. The cases usually started in one quarter, were treated and were worse the next day and then spread to the other quarters. In some cases the cows themselves were also quite sick and in some the mastitis was the only symptom.

A lot is still unknown about mycoplasma mastitis, how it spreads, how it causes disease and therefore how best to prevent it entering the herd and to treat it are not yet fully understood. It is thought to behave as a contagious mastitis pathogen and is most likely spread during milking although other routes of transmission are possible. Asymptomatic carrier animals are thought to have a role and disease can be brought into the herd by purchasing one of these animals. Therefore to prevent Mycoplasma entering the herd a closed herd policy is best. Anecdotally, in other outbreaks in the UK it appears that herds which have other problems BVD, poor nutrition or environments the outbreaks are more severe in terms of number of cows affected and severity of clinical signs. In calves Mycoplasma can cause pneumonia and ear infections resulting in a head tilt. Mycoplasma can be spread by feeding calves waste milk, and if Mycoplasma infection is suspected this practice should be

stopped. Mycoplasma mastitis can be diagnosed by sending a sterilely collected milk sample, although it takes at least a to week to culture.

British Cattle Veterinary Association (BCVA)

Accredited Johnes Veterinary Advisers

Johne's disease is becoming an increasing priority for milk buyers, and dairy farmers are being asked by some milk buyers to establish their Johne's disease status and take action based on the results. The BCVA have a training programme and exam to accredit vets as Johne's advisors to ensure consistent advice is give to farmers about Johne's disease. [Michael Fallon](#), [Mark Crawshaw](#),



[Natasha McCappin & Niall MacDonald](#) have been accredited under this scheme and they would be happy to guide you on all aspects of Johne's disease.



**BCVA Accredited
Johne's Veterinary Adviser**

Johne's disease causes significant herd economic costs through production loss, poor fertility, increased general disease eg metritis, mastitis and lameness; early culling of affected animals is common and so often costs of Johnes to infected are herds hidden or under-estimated with animals culled without ever showing the clinical signs of Johnes or being diagnosed. If you would like to get ahead of the game and establish the Johnes status of your herd or discuss management please contact one of our 4 accredited vets.

If you suspect you have mycoplasma mastitis please contact MBM Vet Group discuss it further



Mark Crawshaw recently attended the World Buiatrics Congress in Dublin. Buiatrics means the study of cattle health. There were 3,000 delegates from 78 countries. Besides picking up the most up to date knowledge he also delivered a paper on dairy cow pneumonia to the Congress.



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This is a new product with a novel mode of action. It is not an antibiotic or a vaccine. Imrestor™ (pegbovigrastrim) restores the function and increases the number of neutrophils, which fight a broad range of pathogens typically found on commercial dairy operations, including both gram-negative and gram-positive mastitis-causing bacteria. It is currently licensed to reduce mastitis in dairy herds. Two doses are injected, one 7-days before expected calving and one within 24 hours of calving. Please speak to one of the farm vets if you would like to know more about this product.

PRE-HOUSING PNEUMONIA VACCINATION

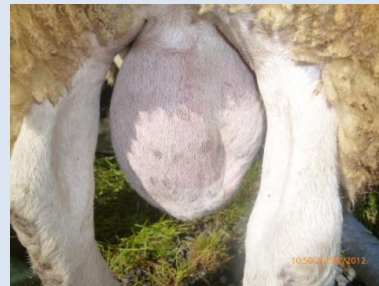
Vaccination works by priming the calves' immune system to the most common respiratory pathogens that they are likely to come across. Whilst it is a significant aid to control, it is not a "Silver Bullet" so if management is not addressed then cases of pneumonia can still occur. You can find out what pathogens are present on your farm and tailor your vaccination program accordingly. This can be done by blood sampling 5 calves over 6 months old to see what antibodies they have; currently this test is well subsidized, please contact the practice if interested. Otherwise blanket vaccination with a product that protects against all of the most common respiratory pathogens (such as Rispoval 4) would be recommended.

Timing of vaccination is vital. Ideally calves should have their vaccination course completed two weeks before they are likely to encounter challenge i.e. housing. For most of the commonly used vaccines this means vaccinating **6 weeks before the calves are likely to come in** and then again two weeks before they come in. If this is not possible consider vaccinating with a single dose intranasal vaccine. Please ask us about appropriate vaccination for your herd.

Giving the first dose at housing is far from ideal and often a poor use of vaccine and your money!

TUPS – IS YOURS WORKING?

It is always recommended that at the very least the shepherd examines every tup's testes for size and abnormalities, the penis/prepuce, feet, body condition and teeth before joining with the ewes. If there are any doubts about a tup's fertility before or during the tugging period we are able to fully assess the tup's likely fertility by a full physical examination and assessment of semen samples.



**Infertile
tup with
unevenly
sized
testes**

BEEF PNEUMONIA MANAGEMENT POINTS

- Ensure your shed is not over-stocked
- Have an all in - all out housing system
- Ensure the shed has adequate ventilation (Ventilation checks available at MBM Vet Group)
- Do not mix calves of different ages in the same air space
- Avoid weaning and housing at the same time – stress!
- Promptly treat clinical cases (any calf with a temperature of 39.5 deg C or more)

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