



Up To £50 FREE BVD TESTING FOR BOVELA USERS

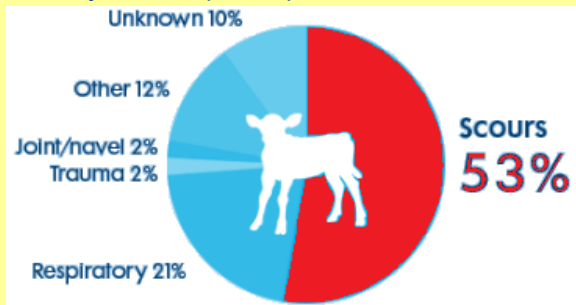
Bovela BVD Vaccine, Why use it?

- No primary course, just a single shot required each year even on first use
- 12 months 100% Foetal Protection
- Protection from Type 1 & 2 BVD
- Can be given from 3 months of age



If you have vaccinated or intend to vaccinate your herd with Bovela contact the practice for a voucher to claim £25-£50 (dependent on herd size) back on any of your BVD testing including ear tags ☺

CAUSES of NEONATAL (1st Week) MORTALITY IN CALVES



Dehydration can kill rapidly, it is important to recognize calf scours and the signs of dehydration as early as possible. Therefore, check your calves twice daily, and provide an electrolyte solution immediately when signs of calf scours and/or dehydration are being observed.

TOXIC E-COLI SEPTICAEMIA ('Watery Mouth')

Seen in first week of life: is a result of poor colostrum uptake/dirty calving environment, regularly the FIRST SIGN IS RELUCTANCE TO SUCK +/- INABILITY TO STAND AS IT CAUSES RAPID DEHYDRATION & HYPOTHERMIA before scour is evident at the tail.

As toxins build in the calves blood you will often see a dark red/purple line on the gums just below the front teeth, if you have a calf with this or unable to stand please call for a vet immediately as these calves require IV fluids and are often saveable if we are called in time. Usually they die of hypothermia and so whilst you await the vet, use jackets/lamps/deep straw to help keep the calf warm and give it the best chance.

PLAN FOR HEALTHY CALVES FROM DAY 1

- CALVES ARE BORN WITH NO ANTIBODIES TO FIGHT INFECTION, SO EVEN NORMAL DIRT IS POTENTIALLY FATAL UNTIL IT RECEIVES 1st COLOSTRUM. A calves first instinct is to get up and suck, it will likely suck other surfaces and the dams legs before finding the teat, if it takes in dirt at this time the bacteria can pass through the gut into the blood and result in toxic E-coli septicaemia, joint ill and increase risk of navel ill.
- Colostrum only passes through the calves intestine wall into the bloodstream for immune protection in the first 6 hours of life, the sooner it receives it the better it is absorbed
- After the first bag of dam colostrum any further colostrum produced by the dam has a very low antibody level but high fat content, it is important calves continue on colostrum for the first 5 days as whilst they cannot absorb the antibodies into the blood, they act to help neutralise bacteria ingested within the gut lumen and provide the high fat required for a very young calf to keep warm.
- Cleanliness is also critical to colostrum absorption, calves born in a dirty environment or fed colostrum that is dirty or not been collected, stored and fed in clean buckets absorb significantly less antibodies and are at high risk of fatal infection.
- Colostrum source; Dam is considered best unless there is evidence she has leaked her first bag or been sucked prior to calving. Where dam colostrum is in short supply or the calf is not observed to suck strongly for at least 20-30mins supplementation is recommended. Ideally good quality cleanly collected and quickly frozen first bag colostrum of another dam from the same farm is best. Alternatively, Immucol Platinum colostrum replacer is available from the practice, this is the only colostrum replacer which has the same antibody level as high quality dam colostrum.
- Groups; No more than 15 calves should share a space and efforts should be made to keep calves grouped by age as older calves are a major source of disease risk to younger calves. Pens with a high throughput should be regularly mucked out to prevent environmental infection build up.

CALVING FOR SUCCESS

1. Hygiene: ensure cattle close to calving are housed in a clean environment with space to stand off from others and good footing. Prior to any interference, the vulva and your hands should be clean/wear gloves; should the calving become protracted or a c-section this cleanliness is critical to the outcome
2. Lubrication: key to not tearing/bruising the cow; well lubricated hands, arms and CALVING ROPES prevents trauma to the cervix which can effect ability to dilate as well as result in fatal cervical tears, fatal bleeding & held cleansings/infection.
3. **Patience:** Much damage can be caused by interfering too soon in the birth process. Disturbing the cow during first stage of labour can delay dilation of the cervix. A cow can be safely left alone for an hour after the water bag is ruptured and in the case of a heifer this period can be extended to three or four hours.
4. If a cow has slackened off, bagged up, uncomfortable, tail raised and is standing off from the group but then does not progress to contractions and a water bag it may be worth bringing in once to check for a twisted calf bed or breech presentation (tail only), in both these instances the calf never meets the pelvic canal to stimulate the cow to press. If still in doubt get a vet to check.
5. **If malpresented and you cannot correct after 10mins of work call the vets,** overworking bruises the cervix increasing risk of tears, retained cleansing & metritis; delaying could cost the calf & cow. **We try our best but cannot arrive instantly!**
6. If correct presentation but you cannot pull out one foot in length of both legs (front or back) without excessive strain **there is a high chance the calf is too big – call the vet and whilst you are waiting** →



Once you call us STEP AWAY FROM THE COW!

Instead prepare 2 CLEANED buckets of warm water & restrain the cow. If we need to do a c-section we will need easy access to the left side, decent light, something to act as a clean table, a place out of wind/dust/rain and helping hands!

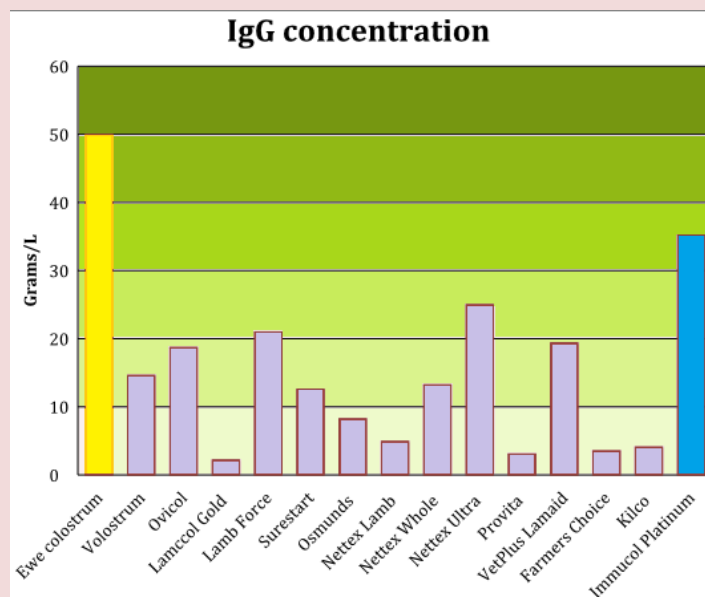
****NEW PRODUCT** IMMUCOL PLATINUM – COLOSTRUM FOR LAMBS**

A 4 kg lamb needs to ingest 400 ml of good quality colostrum within 2-3 hours from birth to achieve adequate antibody levels. Adequate colostrum intake is critical to **preventing E.coli endotoxaemia (“watery mouth”) and hypothermia, the major causes of mortality in this period.** Colostral antibodies are also critical in preventing other infections such as navel ill and joint ill. The high fat level of colostrum along with the lambs’ internal brown fat store generates the heat essential for drying of the fleece after birth and ultimately survival in newborn lambs.

Small lambs have a larger surface area to volume ratio than larger lambs and are thus more susceptible to heat loss. Lambs in outdoor conditions with wind and rain, will need more colostrum for thermogenesis in lambs kept indoors.

Vetsonic has just launched a new very high quality colostrum replacer for lambs. The practice has been stocking and using Immucol Platinum calf colostrum for over a year now with great results and from the research believe their new lamb colostrum will be a vital aid to lamb survival. As you can see in the table there is no colostrum replacer as good as a ewes’ first bag of colostrum for antibody provision but **Immucol Platinum Lamb out performs all other colostrum replacers on the market and is the best alternative available.**

Presented in a 500g (20 servings) or 1kg (40 servings) it is available to order in from the practice as required.



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