



**October 2011**

## **Bovine Respiratory Disease**

The latest strand of the Healthy Livestock Initiative has been launched this autumn. Targeted at Beef Farmers, including suckler herds, finishing units and calf rearers, it aims to help to reduce the impact of Bovine Respiratory Disease (BRD).

It runs in a similar way to the BVD and Johnes strands in that to be able to participate farmers must first attend a group awareness meeting.

The awareness meeting will cover the following subjects:

- Risks and causes
  - Environment
  - Pathogens
  - Susceptibility
- Prevention and control
  - Biosecurity
  - Bio-containment
  - Resilience
  - Surveillance
- Treatment of clinical cases and in contacts
  - Appropriate use of antimicrobials
  - Use of non-steroidals
  - Case selection and monitoring progress

After attending the initial awareness meeting the next stage is for a vet to come out and visit the farm and carry out a risk assessment for Bovine Respiratory Disease on your farm, including:

- Biosecurity risks
- Bio-containment risks (spread within herd)
- Environment risks (housing)
- Resilience (colostrum, vaccination)

We will also assess any records available to look at current disease levels, and if necessary can perform some lab tests to see what pathogens are present on the farm.

You will then get a second visit by a vet to discuss a specific Bovine Respiratory Disease Health Plan for your farm, including treatment, vaccination and control plans as appropriate.

After the 1:1 phase of the scheme there will be an opportunity to attend a group discussion on a farm which has had good success in implementing a Respiratory control plan.

Managing respiratory disease is not easy and there are often many risk factors associated with problems on farm. This is a great opportunity to get some individually tailored advice for your situation, and as with all the HLI strands it is 70% funded by Healthy Livestock. We would much rather come out and create a health plan to help reduce disease on your farm than sell you pneumonia antibiotics this winter!!

If you are interested in being involved please contact the practice to register your interest. Keep an eye out for the next awareness meeting which we will be holding soon, as obviously it is best to get on with creating a plan soon to get measures in place before the winter housing period.



## **NADIS October Parasite Update and Forecast**

Go to [www.nadis.org.uk](http://www.nadis.org.uk) for the most recent version of this monthly parasite forecast

### **LIVER FLUKE FORECAST**

**Wet conditions in the southwest have resulted in a high expected risk of disease caused by liver fluke.**

The expected risk of disease would normally not be expected to drop much further now as potential evaporation levels in the next couple of months will be low, although low autumn rainfall could have some effect.

All parasite control plans should be formulated with the knowledge of individual farm circumstances and should include monitoring procedures to aid with decision-making

