

THREE RIVERS VETERINARY GROUP

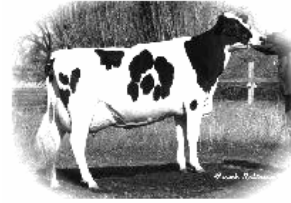
FARM ANIMAL PRACTICE

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CATTLE PRACTICE

DECEMBER 2010 NEWSLETTER.



Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year from all the vets and staff at Three Rivers Vet Group.

Mastitis vaccination is here!

The causal agents of bovine mastitis are microorganisms that live in the udder of the cow and its environment. They can be divided into three groups according to their epidemiology:

- 1) **Contagious:** with bacteria such as *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Streptococcus agalactiae*,
- 2) **Environmentally** related: such as *Streptococcus uberis* and Gram-negative bacteria such as *E. Coli*.
- 3) **Opportunistic:** CNS or coagulase negative *Staphylococci*.

What is the vaccine called?

Startvac

What bacteria is it effective against?

E.Coli, Staphylococcus aureus and CNS.

What is the vaccination protocol?

Administer one dose (2 ml) by deep intramuscular injection in the neck muscles and according to the following schedule:

-First injection at 45 days before the expected parturition date.

-Second injection 35 days thereafter (corresponding to 10 days before the expected parturition date).

-Third injection 62 days after the second injection (equivalent to 52 days post-parturition). The full immunisation program should be repeated with each lactation.

In practice where the vaccine has been used on the continent, the whole herd has been vaccinated at the same time regardless of stage of lactation. These veterinarians advocate a flexible application of the vaccination schedule prescribed by the manufacturer.

The following recommendations were made:

Vaccinate the entire herd regardless of the stage of lactation. All the cattle veterinarians agreed that to get a more rapid response from the vaccination program vaccination must take place during the milking period without waiting until the dry period.

Once a cow or heifer has had the primary course of three vaccines, then provided regular boosters are given every 4 months then it should not be necessary to repeat the initial course. Otherwise the 3 injection course is given annually

What response should I see?

- 1) Decrease in the rate of infections.
- 2) Reduction in the severity and duration of symptoms of mastitis
- 3) Decrease in antibiotic use and the risk of residues in milk
- 4) Decrease in somatic cell counts.
- 5) Increases in daily production of milk due to less discarding of milk.

Does Startvac protect against Streptococcus uberis?

No Strep uberis is not included in this vaccine. Strep uberis has proved to be a very difficult organism to produce a vaccine for, however research is continuing.

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How do I know if Startvac will be beneficial on my farm?

The best way of assessing this is by using the **DairyCo Mastitis Plan**. This will show not only whether the bacteria included in Startvac are causing mastitis on your farm but also whether there is likely to be an economic benefit from using the vaccine

Are other measures besides vaccination required?

Startvac vaccination is designed to prevent mastitis in association with best practice regarding mastitis prevention i.e.:

- 1) Proper and hygienic milking routine.
- 2) Proper use and maintenance of milking equipment.
- 3) Appropriate dry period therapy.
- 4) Treatment of clinical cases during lactation.
- 5) Treatment of skin problems of the udder and teats.
- 6) Culling of cows with chronic mastitis.
- 7) Screening of cows that will enter the farm as replacements.
- 8) Recording of data.
- 9) Maintaining a clean environment.

All of these points are central to the **DairyCo Mastitis Plan** which many of you have started. Remember we have a 65% subsidy on the cost of this plan.

How can I find out more?

Come to our meeting on December 14th 7pm at the Three Horses Shoes at Barnby.

Liver Fluke Reminder.

If you haven't given your stock an autumn treatment for liver fluke yet then it would be advisable to do so as soon as possible. If you require any advice regarding treatment programs or strategies please contact us.

New Pneumonia vaccine.

A new pneumonia vaccine against two bacterial pathogens has been launched. Hiprabovis Pneumos is a pneumonia vaccine against *Histophilus somni* and *mannheimia haemolytica*.

Nationally there has been a decrease in the incidence of viral pneumonia and an increase in bacterial pneumonia. This is the first time that a vaccine has been available against *Histophilus somni*, which is a devastating pneumonia of young calves. The calves may initially appear 'sleepy' with pneumonia signs which initially may not seem severe. However the disease rapidly develops into a severe pneumonia with secondary complications involving the heart and pleural cavity and often

a high mortality. *Histophilus somni* pneumonia is often associated with *mannheimia haemolytica* (which used to be classified as a *pasturella* species).

The vaccine can be given from two months of age and consists of two doses of 2ml given subcutaneously 3 weeks apart.

Pneumonia – when to treat the whole group?

There is some debate as to when treating the whole group of calves for pneumonia becomes the best option to control an outbreak both from an economic and calf welfare standpoint.

In any group of calves affected with pneumonia there will be some calves which are not as severely affected but have a low grade disease. These calves receive a significant setback from which they may not recover.

As a general rule our advice is to treat the whole group if 30% or more are affected.

Feed costs for Suckler Cows.

With feed costs set to rise this winter, do you know the value of the forage you are going to feed? Knowing the feed value of your silage will allow you to plan your feed requirements for the winter and also to ensure that any purchased feeds are going to target any deficiencies in your forage rather than doubling up in areas which are already catered for.

We can analyse forage samples for you and give you advice with regard to ensuring a cost effective balanced diet.

Ivermectin Pour-On .

For lungworm and gut worms:

2.5 litres Enovex at £47.47 + VAT!!!

Closamectin Pour-On.

NB There is a 60 day milk withdrawal.

Treats cattle for liver fluke (adults & immatures), gastrointestinal roundworms, lungworms, lice, mange mites.

Dose rate - 1ml per 10 Kg body weight.

1 litre: £123.44 + Vat.

2.5 Litre: £217.27 + Vat.

5 Litre: £431.52+ Vat.

Gun: £16.05 +Vat.

Trodax Injection.

Treats liver fluke only – can be used with Enovex pour- on wormer.

The pack contains 2x500ml which contains enough for 66 x 500kg cattle (or 111 x 300 Kg) - **£142.28 + Vat.**