

PCHS NEWS

Premium Cattle Health Scheme



2019 Issue

Conflicting Test Results for Johne's Disease

It is not uncommon to have an animal that tests blood antibody positive for Johne's Disease and then when followed up with a faecal culture or PCR test, the results are negative. Under CHeCS rules a herd can maintain or even improve its risk level status from the faecal culture/PCR results, but what do you do with the individual positive animal? Always bear in mind that the blood test positive identifies that the animal is high risk and that the Johne's bacteria can be intermittently shed in the faeces.

Our general advice is that these animals are considered high risk and should be isolated and then removed from the herd. For high genetic merit animals, embryo transfer or ova pick up techniques remain an option to preserve specific genetic lines. If you wish to discuss specific scenarios, please discuss this with your PCHS vet.

Bovela Vaccine for BVD

You may be aware of the new Bovela vaccine for BVD which is now on the market, which is a live double deleted (L2D) vaccine. Due to its live attenuated nature, the strong immune response results in a significantly higher antibody level than with use of killed vaccines. This has some implications for diagnostic and herd screening testing which can be easily managed in the following ways:

- Check testing can still be performed as recommended from nine months of age, with the reminder that vaccination must be performed after the check test has been carried out
- Farms that want to use Bovela from three months of age for young stock protection can also achieve CHeCS accreditation by tissue tagging and testing every calf born
- It is recommended that antigen screening in blood or milk is carried out prior to vaccination or a minimum of 21 days after vaccination
- If using bulk milk PCR testing it is advised to test prior to vaccination or after 21 days
- Bulk milk antibody testing will remain strongly positive in Bovela vaccinated herds and will not be a reliable testing method going forward

If you have any further questions on testing options please contact the lab to discuss further.

Online Members Database

Are you familiar with the online PCHS members database? This is an invaluable tool for all of our health scheme members looking to source accredited stock. Accessed through www.cattlehealth.co.uk, the database can be sorted by county, by breed or by members' surname.

The database shows a full list of all our members who have given their consent to have their details shared online – if you find that you aren't on there and you would like to be then please contact us. The information displayed for each member includes their name, address, telephone number, breed of cattle and their separate accreditation status and certification dates for BVD, Johne's Disease, IBR and Leptospirosis. This is a great way to either find animals that match your own herd's accreditation status or market your own livestock to potential buyers.

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SAC Consulting is a division of SRUC. SRUC is a charity registered in Scotland, No. SC003712



ASD (Analytical Services Department)

The Analytical Services Department is the Agri-Environmental laboratory within SAC Consulting Veterinary Services. The lab offers independent and high quality testing for:

- Soils
- Silage, animal feed and forages
- Plants
- Manures
- Water
- Vitamins/minerals in veterinary samples

The majority of tests are UKAS accredited, providing an extra level of confidence in the results that are given for testing. Our standard practice is that all submitted samples are preceded by a control sample. As the control sample has known values, this allows our technicians to ensure that the lab equipment is correctly calibrated and that the correct methodology is being used in order to get accurate results. This commitment to consistency and accuracy is an advantage over non-UKAS accredited labs that offer similar tests and gives us further confidence in the service we provide.

Contact June Gay 0131 535 3170
or email: asd@sac.co.uk web: www.sac.co.uk/ASD



A crash course in genomics for animal breeding!

This two day vetnomics course covers dairy, beef, sheep, goats and poultry for practising vets, their clients, interested farmers, retailers, genomic services providers and breeding companies.

By the end of this course you will have knowledge of the latest animal genetics research, gain confidence in emerging technologies and understand the underlying mechanisms of genetic progress for data interpretation and implementation on farm.

• 22nd – 23rd November 2018 at Norton House Hotel, Ingliston, Edinburgh EH28 8LX (Includes access to an online Webinar available 24/7)



• If you are unable to attend the course and you need flexibility a webinar is also available

More info and booking at: www.sruc.ac.uk/vetnomics
To book the webinar: www.sruc.ac.uk/vetnomiconline

**Special 20% loyalty discount for November Course for PCHS farmer members and breed societies
£672 +VAT (£336/day+VAT)**

VE^TNOMI^CS

Sheep & Beef News

SPECIAL OFFER



A monthly source of timely, impartial and trustworthy content, driven to support beef and sheep producers

- Market commentary and outlook
- Health and performance
- Genetics and fertility
- Forage and nutrition
- Grassland, fodder and grazing
- Business and management

*** Special Offer: PCHS members receive first year's subscription for £55 (12 issues)**

E-mail your details (name, address, phone number) to val.angus@sac.co.uk and quote offer code SBN18

"I've been receiving SBN for some years now, it's the best read that comes through our door" – John Emerson, County Durham



Throughout 2018, SAC Consulting Veterinary Services have exhibited at a number of shows and events around the country to promote both the Premium Cattle Health Scheme and the Premium Sheep & Goat Health Schemes. We have used these as an opportunity to run prize draws and exclusive show offers and we have met a huge number of existing health scheme members as well as people wanting to join.

2018 Shows and Events:

- NBA Beef Expo – Shrewsbury, Shropshire
- NSA ScotSheep* – Ballantrae, Ayrshire
- Royal Highland Show – Edinburgh
- Great Yorkshire Show – Harrogate
- NSA Sheep Event* – Malvern, Worcestershire
- Royal Welsh Show – Builth Wells, Powys
- NSA South Sheep* – Ardingly, West Sussex
- UK Dairy Day – Telford, Shropshire

- Westmorland Show – Crooklands, Cumbria
- Borderway Agri-Expo – Carlisle, Cumbria
- Agrifest South West – Exeter, Devon
- AgriScot - Edinburgh

We will be exhibiting at many of the same events in 2019, as well as Scotland's Beef Event, NSA North Sheep, Welsh Sheep, Highland Sheep and Sheep South West. Keep up to date with where we will be by following us on **Twitter @SRUCVets** and on **Facebook (fb.com/saccvs)** and make sure you come and meet our team.

*These events are biennial and will not be repeated until 2020

Working together to eradicate BVD in the UK



Wales

Gwaredu BVD – Bovine Viral Diarrhoea Eradication

The Welsh Eradication Programme is a three year industry led voluntary scheme launched in September 2017 and is financed by the Welsh Government. It is designed to fit around TB testing. The vet takes 5 blood samples from each group of animals 9 – 18 months old. The results and next steps are then discussed with the vet at the reading of the TB test. The initial blood sampling is free and if any results come back positive then the farmer will be supported up to the value of £500 to conduct a PI hunt. There has been a positive response with 5000 farms in Wales (40%) taking up this opportunity. The project is running for 3 years. The programme will launch an online educational package, a trading database and an online biosecurity package during 2018. PCHS members in Wales should not have to pay for their screening test while the project is running.

If you have any questions about 'Gwaredu BVD', please contact Gelli Aur:

Tel: 01554 748576

Email: GwareduBVD@colegsirgar.ac.uk



Scotland

Scottish BVD eradication scheme

The scheme was launched in September 2010 and kick-started by 4000 herds taking advantage of subsidised screening from Scottish Government – £36 for testing and £72 for a PI hunt. This was followed by mandatory screening in Phase 2 and Control Measures in Phase 3. Now at Phase 4 it includes enhanced testing and movement restrictions introduced from 1st June 2015. Keepers of breeding herds of cattle in Scotland must have their herds screened every year by either check testing to determine BVD exposure or testing all calves born on the holding for virus. Non-breeding herds must test all calves born on the holding before they are 40 days old. Farmers are required to test replacement animals from untested herds; movement restrictions are imposed on “not negative” herds and there is a ban on knowingly moving BVDV infected cattle. The scheme currently involves 11,300 herds representing 1.7 million cattle. Approved labs send results to a national database www.scoteid.com Phase 5 is being introduced early 2019 with increased pressure on ‘not negative’ and ‘positive’ herds.

Contact details:

Tel: 0300 244 9823

Email: bvd@scotland.gsi.gov.uk



This article is correct at the time of printing, for more up to date information please contact your relevant scheme directly

England

BVDFree England

This is a voluntary industry-led scheme aiming to identify and remove all persistently infected (PI) animals from the English cattle herd by 2022. The scheme is built around a national database (www.bvdfree.org.uk) which is searchable for the BVD status of individual animals and herds tested under the scheme. Farmers must register with BVDFree to enable their herds' BVD test results to be uploaded to the database and there is a small charge for this. Individual animal BVD status can be found by entering a UK tag number or a herd's BVD status can be found using the CPH number. This provides farmers with recognition, confidence and traceability when buying and selling BVDFree cattle. CHeCS accredited herds (from all over the UK) can register and display their BVD herd status for 'free' on their database and don't need to be a member of BVDFree. An electronic form giving PCHS permission to upload BVD herd status is available at www.cattlehealth.co.uk/bvdfree

Contact Details:

Tel: 03332413113

Email: help@bvdfree.org.uk

Northern Ireland

BVD Eradication Programme

A voluntary phase started on 1st January 2013 followed by a compulsory phase from 1st March 2016, requiring all calves to be tested for BVD virus. The eradication scheme is based on testing ear punch samples for BVD virus using official identity or management tissue tags. Farmers join the programme by ordering tissue sample tags from a designated tag supplier. Permission is obtained from the herd owner to share their herd data and results for the administration of the programme and farmers undertake to comply with the programme guidelines. Calves should be tagged as soon as possible after birth (as soon as the calf is dry) and not later than 20 days after birth. All aborted and stillborn calves should be sampled for testing. For those animals born during the compulsory phase of the programme, only those testing negative are permitted to move off the farm to another farm, market or Export Assembly Centre. All PI calves should be isolated until culled or slaughtered. Participating farmers can access data recorded for their herd through the AHWNI database (www.animalhealthni.com)

Contact Details:

Tel: 028 8778 9126


Email: info@animalhealthni.com

Acceptance of other labs' results for BVD tissue tags: We can accept one year's worth of tests from another UKAS accredited lab to count towards a herd's accreditation. A signed declaration from the owner of the herd and their vet is also required to confirm the animal's identity and that the biosecurity rules have been followed.

Did you know: BVD testing results from English herds can be uploaded to the ScotEID database if you are intending to sell animals into Scotland. Let our lab know that you want your results to be added at the time of testing as there is a charge for adding them retrospectively.



**STAMP
OUT BVD**



Following the announcement of DEFRA's Stamp Out BVD campaign, SAC Consulting has opened registration for vet practices across England. This campaign provides funding for vets to go out on farm and discuss on a one to one basis the risks of BVD and undertake some testing to investigate the presence of the disease within a herd.

Per farm there is funding of £61.80 for check tests, and in limited circumstances this can open up access to a further £440 to undertake a PI hunt. This project sits alongside BVDFree in its aim of getting farmers to declare their BVD status.

Neil Carter
Senior Consultant
www.sruc.ac.uk/bvd
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BVD Virus Testing
Using Tag and Test
Tags should be kept in a cool dry place and submitted in batches every two weeks. This is important to ensure the tissue samples do not deteriorate. It also means you get the results quickly and can act on them if necessary.



Buying Guide

Although keeping a closed herd is the best way to keep disease off your farm, this isn't always possible. Buying replacements can be a risky business; a healthy looking animal may be carrying disease. Don't be afraid to ask direct questions about an animal's health status. One wrong assumption can lead to a crippling disease outbreak and devastate profits on your farm. Here are some recommendations for best practice when purchasing replacement animals:

- Buy replacements (including bulls) from CHeCS accredited herds
- Check herd status of PCHS members on our online members database
- If you are given a certificate of accredited status check that the herd is within the testing date to see if CHeCS accredited status is still valid
- Isolate purchased stock on arrival for at least one month. Purchasing animals through markets and transportation poses a potential disease risk so quarantine and test animals before they join the herd
- If you are buying in pregnant animals quarantine them on arrival and tissue tag the calf for BVD as soon as it is born before mixing with the rest of the herd
- Try to buy accredited high health status bulls – otherwise quarantine and test before introducing to the herd
- Screen your herd for disease – when buying animals of a high health status, it is worth knowing if your own herd has any disease issues. High health status purchased stock won't perform if they are exposed to a heavy disease burden in their new home. In this situation it is worth discussing vaccination of incoming stock with your vet
- Follow the correct biosecurity procedures for transporting cattle, it is not worth buying a healthy animal only for it to pick up a disease on the journey home



If purchasing stock of unknown health status:

- Ideally test on the farm of origin before bringing them home
- If stock are brought home they should be isolated for at least 28 days from the rest of the herd and tested according to which diseases your herd is accredited for
- Any animals that test positive for IBR or Leptospirosis should be removed from the quarantine group and then test the group again 28 days later. If the group tests negative they can be introduced to the home herd.

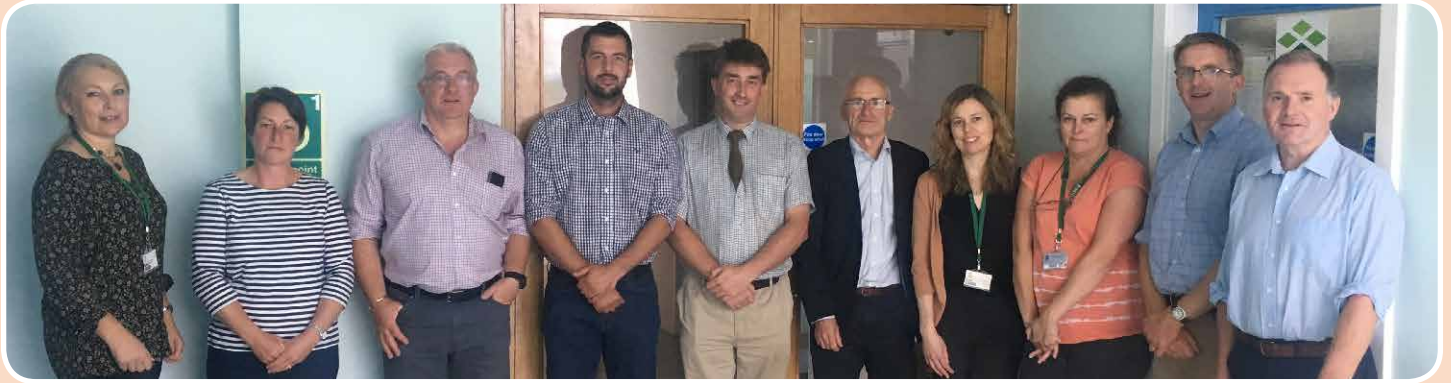
You must decide if you wish to accredit all stock on the holding or keep newly acquired stock separated. If you keep two separate herds you must be sure to follow biosecurity guidelines otherwise the accredited herd will lose its status. Keep hold of your certification and contact the PCHS Team at St Boswell's who will be able to guide you and your vet on next steps to registering your herd.

It is also worth considering:

- Planning ahead your purchases for the year, what type of animals will be bought and what time of year, allowing you to plan effective quarantine and control measures
- Buying in as few animals as possible. Planning ahead may allow you to increase numbers or get enough replacements from your own herd rather than having to rely on purchasing and adding more risk
- Buying from as few herds as possible. The more herds you buy from the greater the risk of introducing disease. Buying 50 cattle from one herd is potentially a lot lower risk than buying 20 cattle from a number of different herds. If possible try to buy from the same herds year after year, allowing you to build a relationship with the owner and get to know their health status and management practices.

PCHS Advisory Group

The PCHS Advisory Group meets in August each year to discuss a range of issues related to cattle health and the running of our national scheme. This year we were also able to take our advisory group members on a tour of our Molecular and Serology labs in Edinburgh, to see first-hand the testing methods that we use for the diseases covered in the health schemes.



From left to right: Alison Braddock (SACCVS Marketing and Business Development Manager), Wanda Hobbs (Aberdeen Angus Cattle Society), Neil Shand (Simmental Cattle Society), Harri Parri (Stabiliser Cattle), Keith Cutler (Endell Farm Vets), George Caldwell (Head of SACCVS), Jennifer Thacker (Molecular Laboratory Supervisor), Liz MacKay (Serology Laboratory Supervisor), Colin Mason (SACCVS Veterinary Centre Manager, Dumfries), Graeme Richardson (Thrums Veterinary Group).



Facebook

We have recently created a SAC Consulting Veterinary Services Facebook page! Here you can keep up to date with all the latest news and developments for the Premium Cattle Scheme, Premium Sheep & Goat Health Schemes and more.

Visit our page and make sure you click the 'like' button to see our updates.

Go to www.facebook.com/SACCVS or search for 'SAC Consulting Veterinary Services' on Facebook

Reminder: John's Disease and TB Test
There is an interaction between the skin test for TB and the blood test for John's disease. Animals that have been tested for TB by the skin test are more likely to test positive for John's disease - avoid confusion by ensuring that the John's herd test is not carried out within the three months following a TB test. For TB testing on 60 day testing for TB, testing should be done as late as possible after a TB skin test and any reactors will need to be retested by faecal PCR.

Sales Card
Reminder: If you require a sale card please contact our office at least two weeks before it is needed (six weeks if testing is also required). The application form can be downloaded from our website. Accreditation certificates are sent out after testing has been completed and further copies can be requested any time if needed.

The National John's Management Plan (Dairy Industry) Great Britain



Phase 11 update: by 31st October 2018 all farmers supplying milk to the 27 purchaser members of the National John's Management Plan (NJMP) will need to have assessed their risks and herd status and implemented a John's Disease management plan and co-signed a declaration of compliance with their BCVA Accredited John's Veterinary Advisor.

More information at www.actionjohnesuk.org

Advantages of being in the CHeCS bTB Scheme



Changes announced by Defra in May 2018 - England

- **Compensation** – from 1st November 2018, 50% compensation will be available for animals brought into a TB breakdown herd which then fail a TB test. This will mirror what already happens in Wales. However, cattle keepers registered and participating in CHeCS TB Herd will continue to receive 100% compensation for compulsorily slaughtered cattle, provided the herd is accredited (with a score of 1 or above) at the time of the breakdown
- **Six monthly testing** – routine surveillance testing for higher risk herds in the High Risk Area (HRA) will now take place at six-monthly intervals from 2020, some herds in HRA will remain on annual testing if: They have not had a TB breakdown in 6 years; **and/or** they are CHeCS TB accredited at level 1 or above

Welsh Government

In July 2017, the Welsh Government announced that a Post Movement Test will not be needed for animals moving into the low risk TB Area if they come from herds which are participating in a CHeCS TB Herd Accreditation Scheme, and have achieved a score of Level 10.

The CHeCS programme differs from statutory bTB control, for more information see www.cheecs.co.uk and www.tbhub.co.uk

All relevant forms including the PCHS Price List, Application Form and Compliance Declaration are available at www.cattlehealth.co.uk

TB Advisory Service

Cattle farmers across the High Risk and Edge Areas of England are eligible to receive FREE, bespoke advice on practical, cost-effective measures to reduce the risks associated with TB. The TB Advisory Service offers one-to-one on-farm advice visits, where experienced advisors can provide bespoke recommendations to prevent TB incursions in herds that are currently clear, whilst discussing trading options and measures to prevent repeated reinfection for farms that are currently under TB restrictions. A telephone advice service and 'drop-in clinics' are also available for farmers with specific questions about bovine TB and biosecurity. The project is funded by Defra and the EU through the Rural Development Programme for England, and runs until 2020.

To find out more, please contact the TB Advisory Service on 01306 779410 or email info@tbas.org.uk or visit www.tbas.org.uk

Reminder for faecal samples:
All samples should be packaged and submitted in proper containers rather than in plastic bags. For the purposes of the accreditation scheme, all samples have to be collected by your vet.

IBR reminder: Members of the IBR accreditation scheme must inform us if an animal has been marker vaccinated with IBRgE so we can carry out the correct test.

Meet the Team



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