

Advice for Health Scheme members taking animals to Shows and Sales

1) BVD

- a) BVD antibody positive animals are not excluded from accredited herds so vaccination can be used to protect an animal, both from herds with Accredited Free and herds with Vaccinated Monitored Free status.
- b) Vaccination is designed to protect against the results of exposure to infection; it does not provide a barrier to infection. Vaccinated animals therefore still need to undergo quarantine and testing on returning to the farm after shows.
- c) It is very useful to have a record of a vaccinated animal's BVD antibody titre (which may be within the negative range) before it leaves the farm. Ideally animals should undergo a complete vaccination course in accordance with the manufacturer's data sheets and then be tested for antibody at least 2 weeks after the course has been completed, in advance of leaving the farm.

2) IBR

- a) Marker vaccination for IBR is permitted in Accredited Free herds.
- b) Live vaccination is generally recommended as providing the best protection for IBR in naïve animals and, if given intramuscularly will not result in latency. This means the vaccine virus will not be reactivated and spread to non-vaccinated animals in the herd.
- c) Vaccination is designed to protect against the results of exposure to infection; it does not provide a barrier to infection. Vaccinated animals therefore still need to undergo quarantine and testing on returning to the farm after shows.
- d) Vaccinated animals exposed to infection at shows may develop antibody to wild-type infection; if they do, they will not be able to return to the herd without loss of the herd's IBR Accredited Free status.
- e) Vaccination, even with a marker vaccine, should be avoided in animals that may be destined for export or semen collection.

3) Johne's disease

- a) Mycobacterium avium paratuberculosis (MAP), the organism that causes Johne's disease, is spread in dung, with animals of less than 6 months being most susceptible to infection. If steps can be taken to avoid exposure to the dung of other animals at shows this should be done.
- b) Testing of animals that have attended shows for Johne's disease is not advantageous; therefore the CHeCS rules do not require Johne's testing of returning animals that have been off the farm for less than 7 continuous days.

4) Leptospirosis

- a) Antibody positive animals are not allowed in herds that are Accredited Free of leptospirosis and vaccination should not be used in herds that wish to maintain this status.
- b) In Monitored Free herds a single antibody positive is permitted in herds with 20 or fewer breeding animals, and up to 5% of breeding animals are allowed in larger herds. In a herd that has opted for Monitored Free rather than Accredited Free status, vaccination could be used to protect a small number of animals attending shows.
- c) It would be necessary to have a record of a vaccinated animal's leptospirosis antibody titre before it leaves the farm. Animals should undergo a complete vaccination course in accordance with the manufacturer's data sheets and then be tested for antibody at least 2 weeks after the course has been completed, in advance of leaving the farm.