



Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis (IBR)

IBR is a highly contagious viral disease that affects cattle of all ages. Infection occurs by inhalation – the virus affects the upper respiratory tract and can lead to fatal pneumonia. Infected cattle develop a latent infection once recovered from the initial infection and despite appearing clinically normal may spread the disease when under stress.

Although other European countries have eradicated IBR, the disease remains endemic in the UK

Clinical signs

- In some cases IBR contributes to severe pneumonia which can be fatal
- Primary clinical signs of IBR can be confused with other causes of pneumonia in cattle
- In mild cases, conjunctivitis, occasional coughing and poor milk yield may be the only signs noticed
- The virus may also cause abortion
- Permanent infection with reactivation and release of virus at times of stress is also a possibility

Transmission

- IBR virus is shed from the respiratory tract through coughing and nasal discharges of infected animals
- The introduction of carrier animals to the herd is a common route of infection
- Contact across boundary fences with infected cattle is another common route
- The virus is also spread in the semen of infected bulls

Impact

- IBR is endemic in the UK with an estimated **40% of cattle**¹ having been exposed to the virus in the past
- The cost of an outbreak in a 100 cow herd may reach **£5,000** through milk loss, dead animals, abortions and treatment costs²

1 – NADIS

2 – Farm Vets South West

Protect your herd!

IBR Accreditation Scheme

Add value and protect your herd by joining the Premium Cattle Health Scheme

Join today for 50% off Annual Membership in your first year!

Benefits of Joining

- As a member you benefit from preferential testing rates to keep costs down
- Results are emailed directly to you and your vet simultaneously, for easy integration into your existing herd health management
- Our specialist vets are also available to discuss test results and action plans
- Advertise your stock as **IBR** accredited at auction or for private sales and be listed on our **online database** to help market your stock and achieve higher prices
- Be able to export stock to countries that have eradicated IBR

How the Accreditation Scheme Works:

- Follow the **CHeCS** rules and conditions for testing, stock management and biosecurity
- Test all animals over 12 months of age at the first test
- Second test required one to twelve months later
- Two clear tests result in accreditation
- A proportion of animals must be tested annually
- Members can also become accredited for **BVD, Johne's Disease, Leptospirosis** and **Neospora**
- Certificates are issued to show herd health status

Vaccination

Marker Vaccine - A gE deleted marker vaccine may be used in the health scheme. Where any animal is vaccinated with the marker vaccine, this information must be recorded and noted on the laboratory request form in order to allow the appropriate laboratory test to be carried out.

For more info please contact:

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