parklands VETERINARY GROUP
Large Animal Services

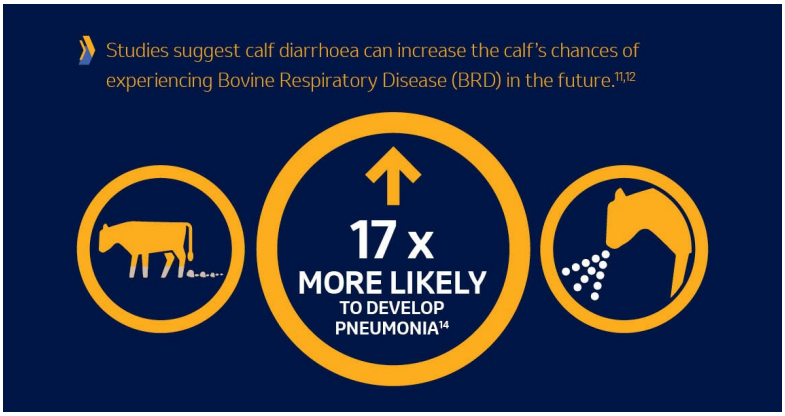
vetPartners

Farm Newsletter

June 2026

Did your Calves have Scour this Year?

The world's first and only vaccine designed to protect newborn calves against Cryptosporidiosis from the day of birth.
Developed for active immunisation of pregnant heifers and cows to raise antibodies in their colostrum against "Crypto" (Gp40 of *C. parvum)* and intended for passive immunisation of calves to significantly reduce clinical signs (i.e. diarrhoea) caused by C. parvum.
https://www.bovilis.ie/crypto/bovilis-cryptium/
Crypto oocysts can survive for months in the environment and are quite resilient to disinfection.
Bovilis Cryptium can be administered at the same time as Bovilis® Rotavec® Corona, but at different injection sites.
These two vaccines together protect against the 4 of the most common Neonatal Calf Diarrhoea pathogens: C. parvum, coronavirus, rotavirus, E. coli.
The protection of calves depends on adequate intake of good quality colostrum and transition milk from vaccinated cows.



It is recommended that all calves are fed colostrum and transition milk during the first 5 days of life. Studies have shown that supplemental colostrum feeding during the first 2 weeks reduces diarrhoeal disease and improves average daily gain (up to 270g/day during the first 28 days of life).
Contamination of colostrum with faecal matter or other material can result in bacteria multiplying in the colostrum. This can affect quality and result in failure of passive transfer to the calf.

- Collect colostrum using clean equipment.
- Clean and disinfect collecting and feeding equipment after each use.
- If storing colostrum, do so in a clean, covered and sealed container.
- Avoid pooling colostrum as this may lower quality and increase the risk of Johnes disease transmission.
- Allow colostrum to cool before storing in a fridge or freezer.

See below for the vaccination schedule and for more information speak to a Parklands vet.

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Let your calving data work for you this summer

Spring calving is behind you — but before the season fades from memory, there's one task that will pay dividends before breeding: sitting down with your calving records. The data you've gathered over the past few months is a roadmap to better breeding decisions, reduced costs, and a more manageable calving period next year.

Mining your calving records for next year's gains

Start with calving ease scores. Which sires produced calves that needed assistance? If a particular bull appears repeatedly in your difficult calving records, that has real economic consequences — in vet costs, calf losses, and the knock-on effect on cow fertility. Ease of calving EBVs (Estimated Breeding Values) are available across most beef breeds and should be weighted heavily when selecting bulls for heifers or moderate-framed cows.

Gestation length is equally valuable and often overlooked. Prolonged gestations are directly associated with higher rates of dystocia (difficult calving), and cross-referencing your calving dates against service records will show whether certain sires are consistently running long. Feed that back into your bull review before breeding decisions are made.

Review any available calf vigour data. Colostrum uptake in the first six hours is the single greatest determinant of lifetime immunity and calf survival. Calves slow to stand — whether due to sire genetics, dam conformation, or birthweight — inflate your workload and raise disease risk across the whole cohort.

Finally, identify which cows required treatment for periparturient (around-calving) disease: hypocalcaemia (milk fever), retained foetal membranes (cleansings), abomasal displacement (twisted stomach), or metritis (womb infection). Repeat offenders are strong culling candidates. Cows that cost you at calving and then fail to hold to service rarely justify another winter's keep. Discuss your findings with your vet before your next bull purchase or AI programme — the calving season is expensive to run, so make your data pay.

Key health priorities for Summer

With your data reviewed it’s time to think about the health challenges summer brings.

Cow fertility and recovery - Many cows will still be in negative energy balance. Body condition score your herd now — cows below BCS 2.5 face significantly extended calving intervals. Ensure any animals with unresolved metritis (womb infection) or subclinical endometritis (low-grade uterine inflammation) are examined promptly; these are among the most underdiagnosed causes of poor conception rates in UK herds.

Calf respiratory disease - Calves born in March and April are entering a vulnerable window. A damp British summer creates ideal conditions for pneumonia, particularly in recently turned-out or mixed groups. Ensure your vaccination protocols cover the pathogens relevant to your unit. A calf with pneumonia left untreated for 24 hours risks permanent lung damage.

Parasites - June marks peak pasture larval challenge. *Ostertagia ostertagi* (brown stomach worm) in young stock and *Fasciola hepatica* (liver fluke) — both warrant attention. Use faecal egg counts (FECs) to guide treatment rather than blanket dosing; resistance is a growing problem and routine dosing is no longer recommended. Please speak to the practice if you want to set up regular FEC testing for the grazing season.

Summer mastitis and fly control - *Trueperella pyogenes*, the bacterium responsible for summer mastitis, can destroy a quarter in dry cows and heifers at pasture, with flies as the vector. Pour-ons, ear tags, and external teat sealants in at-risk animals offer meaningful protection.

Summer may feel quieter, but the decisions you make now — on data, breeding, and disease prevention — will define next spring. Use the time well.