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MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Hello again and welcome to our new members! We have still not received any information about existing HI Health members up to 31 January 2005 from the previous contractor. Despite this we have managed to install a database with the information we have, but if your trading name and/or address on the envelope in which this newsletter was sent is incorrect, please let us know.

During the last six months most new members are from Aberdeenshire and Caithness.

We carried out a promotional "road-show" in May to Huntly, Perth, Castle Douglas and Berwickshire. In June we held a meeting in Caithness and were also invited by vet Andrew Rafferty to give a presentation in Grantown-on-Spey.

SHEEP FARMERS

Membership of HI Health is now available to sheep farmers. Until now the scheme was only available to cattle farmers, but we now have introduced health plans for sheep and for cattle and sheep combined.

This may be useful if you are a sheep farmer and have claimed Option 1 of your LMC.



HEALTH DECLARATION CERTIFICATES

We are delighted to offer Health Declaration Certificates as may be required for bulls attending sales in Perth (for example).

If you require a certificate, please contact your vet. They are produced by BioBest at a cost of £5 per certificate. They need plenty of notice, so if you need ones for the Perth Bull Sales in October, you will need to arrange with your vet to have any testing done as required and to submit the certificate request form to BioBest.

LAND MANAGEMENT CONTRACTS OPTION 1 – Animal Health & Welfare Management Programme

We hope you found our last newsletter regarding Option 1 of the Land Management Contracts helpful.

Almost 4,000 holdings in Scotland have applied for grant through option 1 and 10% of these applications came from Orkney.

In order to claim any grant from Option 1, you must have your health plan drawn up with your vet before 01 December 2005.

Please book this as soon as possible as your vet may have a lot of them to carry out and may not have time if you leave it to the last minute.

When your plan has been completed, you should receive a printed copy from your vet.

Our plan meets QMS requirements, so if your QMS inspector asks if you have a health plan in place, you can show it to him or her. It also gives our disease accreditation programme more credibility.

JOHNE'S SCREENING

If Johne's testing appeals to you, but the expense of testing all your animals over two years old on an annual basis puts you off, you may consider screening. It isn't as thorough as a whole herd test, but is certainly better than doing nothing.

To participate in Johne's screening all you have to do is arrange with your vet to take samples from 10 cows over two years old. It would be best to include any potential cull cattle and any that don't seem to be thriving as well as the rest.

Dairy herds may have samples taken from their bulk milk tank(s), but the disease may only be identified in this way if particularly prevalent.

The Johne's screen may be done at the same time as any other testing you may wish to carry out.

VACCINATION REQUIRED FOR SALES OF BREEDING CATTLE

At the most recent HI Health meeting last month, it was decided that all BVD antibody negative (white) breeding cattle for sale through auction under the auspices of Orkney Livestock Association **MUST be fully vaccinated**.

This means that they must have, at very least, been given the initial two doses of BVD vaccine that are required the first year of vaccination. The first two doses are given 21 days apart, so if you are planning to sell breeding stock shortly and they haven't already been vaccinated you will need to get organised!

BVD vaccine can be administered at any time as it is not a "live" vaccine, but it is most effective if given to breeding cows and heifers before bulling – and don't forget to vaccinate your bull too!

Vaccination before sale prevents infection when the animal has left the holding, as it may come into contact during transit or at the mart.

WHY VACCINATE FOR BVD?

The main object of BVD vaccination is to protect the growing foetus from BVD infection as all "persistently infected" (red) cattle are created in the womb and remain red after birth and throughout their lifetime, spreading virus to other cattle and reducing immunity to other diseases.

If you know that you have a BVD problem, or if your screen test was positive, you should carry out a whole herd test to detect any "red" animals. These should then be removed from the herd to prevent further infection.

FAQ:- Why vaccinate bulls?

If bulls test antibody negative (white) they should also be vaccinated, especially if they are bound for a sale. If an unvaccinated antibody negative (white) bull comes into contact with the virus he will become antibody positive (green) but his semen may be infectious for up to 20 weeks.

FAQ:- I vaccinated my breeding herd without doing any testing first – can I still become accredited?

If you have vaccinated your breeding cattle without having done any testing first, you should still carry out an annual screen on each batch of weaned calves. It is best to test these at around 9 months to 1 year old. If your annual screen is clear you know that your vaccination programme is working and you are still eligible for BVD accreditation, but if it is not it will probably mean that you are vaccinating a "red" animal.

SALE OF BVD KNOWN STATUS CATTLE

There is a sale of BVD known status cattle at Orkney Auction Mart, Kirkwall, Orkney on Friday 16 September 2005.

Forward for sale as on 08 September 2005:-

50 Simmental x, Aberdeen Angus x, Limousin x and Salers x heifers in calf to Angus, Limousin and Simmental bulls due October onwards ex Henry, Howe, Harray, Orkney;

14 Aberdeen Angus x, Charolais x and Simmental x cows with Charolais x calves at foot. Been back to Charolais bull ex Thomson, Nether Ousenness, Westray, Orkney;

6 Simmental x with Aberdeen Angus x and Simmental x calves at foot. Been back to Aberdeen Angus and Simmental bulls ex Mowat, Breck Cottage, Birsay, Orkney;

3 Charolais x and Aberdeen Angus x cows with Limousin x calves at foot. Been back to Limousin bull ex Cass, Faraclett, Rousay, Orkney;

4 Pedigree Luing heifers in calf to Luing bull due March/April ex Easton, Quoyhalen, Quoyloo, Orkney;

8 Limousin x heifers ex Laughton, Easterbister, Holm, Orkney.

Further details and photographs of some of the cattle forward can be found on the website:

www.orkneylivestock.co.uk

The HI Health website is currently under reconstruction, so please refer to the above website meantime.

OLA SALE OF SUCKLED CALVES

This year's OLA show and sale of suckled calves will take place on Thursday 20 October 2005 at Orkney Auction Mart with various prizes up for grabs.

If you would like to sell calves at this sale you must carry out a screen test of at least 10 calves. If the calves are in different fields, you will need to screen some from each batch.

Please discuss and arrange your screen test with your vet. Ideally this would need to be carried out before Friday 07 October 2005 to ensure that results are known before the sale.

Please notify the office about the total number and breeds of calves you wish to sell so that they can be advertised.

VETERINARY ADVICE FROM BIOBEST

If you require advice on any aspect of disease eradication/accreditation, please do not hesitate to contact the veterinary team at BioBest. Further details and contact numbers are enclosed with this newsletter.