



# Parkside Farms

## Anthrax

In Scotland, all sudden deaths of cattle have to be reported but now a full anthrax enquiry is not automatically authorised by the ministry. We need to know details about the dead animal and the farm before authorisation is given, so farmers need to give us details such as the animals age, tag number, any recent illness, details about field in which the animal was found, has dung been applied, has there been recent digging in the field and might that field have buried animals in it? This may also be needed for an insurance claim.

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## Scottish BVD Eradication Scheme Moves Into its Next Phase

The ambitious Scottish BVD eradication scheme has made substantial progress, with 83% of herds now 'negative' across the country. In total 1750 Persistently Infected (PI) animals have been identified and the vast majority of these have been eliminated.

To build on this successful platform, from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2015, the BVD eradication scheme moved into its next phase (Phase 4). This involves the following key changes:

::Any herd with a "not negative" status will now only be allowed to move animals (other than direct to slaughter) if they have an individual virus negative status. Individual animals will therefore be required to be tested before movement.

::Bulk milk antibody testing has been removed as a testing option. This test was useful for initial screening but, as the scheme progresses, it is important to understand whether there is active infection in the herd.

::Any animal moving on to a holding from a "not negative" herd, or a herd outside Scotland, will require isolating and testing for virus. If you do not individually test these animals your BVD status will become 'not negative'.

Given these changes, it is important to contact the practice if your herd is "not negative" so we can help you successfully eliminate the disease from your farm. We can advise on testing as well as vaccination, which should be considered to help protect against the birth of Persistently Infected (PI) animals.

If your herd is "negative" then it is essential to take steps to maintain this status. As your herd is likely to be at risk of coming into contact with the BVD virus, a review of herd biosecurity is recommended. Where biosecurity is sub-optimal, vaccination should be considered to help protect your herd.

Please contact us to discuss the most appropriate action for your herd. More details on our web site.

### NEW VET

LUCY EIRE is the newest vet to join the Large-Animal team. A graduate of Liverpool University. Lucy is from Yorkshire and comes to us with considerable farm experience. A keen walker, who has three dogs, she enjoys horse riding and brings her horse with her too!

## **Beef and Sheep Silage Analysis 2015 - beware of quality!**

SAC's Analytical Services Department carries out silage analysis for farmers and the averages this year for beef and sheep silages are summarised below:

Preservation (%)	Dry Matter (g/kg)	Crude Protein (g/kg DM)	ME (MJ/kg DM)	D value
Pit	277	101.9	10.8	67.4
Bale	352	101.3	10.7	66.8

### Points to note are as follows:

- These are average figures with expected wide variation between samples. Energy and digestibility (D) values are acceptable.
- Crude Protein (CP) levels are low and 46% of samples were below 10% CP and 25% were below 9% CP
- 9% CP is the advised minimum for adequate rumen function in dry suckler cows with levels below 8% potentially having a more dramatic effect.
- Low protein levels reduce the populations of rumen microbes leading to impaired rumen function.
- This can result in reduced body condition score and in some cases rumen impactions.
- Problems may become more marked as the winter progresses and the foetus grows.
- We suspect that the grass was unable to take up available nitrogen from cold soils in May leading to the lower CP levels.
- This raises the question: Has there also been a poor uptake of minerals as well? The simple answer is that we do not know as mineral analysis is carried out less commonly on suckler silages.

### **The key take home messages are:**

- **Get silages analysed.**
- **Seek nutritional advice on next steps if protein levels are low.**
- **Consider protein supply as a possible differential diagnosis of ill thrift this winter.**
- **Be aware of potential rumen impaction issues.**
- **Review mineral and trace element status for your animals and do not assume that this year is the same as previous years!**

## **Do you have dogs?**

**All dogs in Scotland must be microchipped before April 16th 2016**

