



## Rodenticide Products

From April 2016 onwards, rodenticide products with new 'stewardship conditions' labels for use outside by professionals, including farmers, will be introduced carrying the following statement: "For supply to and use only by professional users holding certification demonstrating compliance with UK rodenticide stewardship regime requirements".

Farmers who have completed an approved training course and obtained a certificate will be permitted to buy and use these products. As an interim measure, membership of an approved farm assurance scheme will also permit purchase and use of these products until the end of December 2017.

A preliminary list of farm assurance schemes approved for compliance with the UK Rodenticide Stewardship Regime has been released by the Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use (CRRU). Those relevant to us:

- ❏ Red Tractor Farm Assurance – Beef and Lamb, Dairy, Crops, Fresh Produce, Pigs, Poultry
- ❏ Quality Meat Scotland – Beef & Lamb, Pigs

CRRU Code of best practice - aligned schemes will continue to provide proof of competence for purchase of professional rodenticide products beyond December 2017. Members of schemes that have not come into alignment will not be able to use their membership for purchase beyond the end of December 2017.

We will be running a course in Ossett on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2015 at a cost of £90 plus VAT per person which covers the following:

- ❏ Identify pest species of rats & mice
- ❏ Understand when control measures are necessary
- ❏ Select appropriate control methods (chemical/non-chemical), with the use of SGARs justified following consideration of other methods first
- ❏ Apply control measures in a safe effective manner
- ❏ Operate in line with current best practice & in line with current legislation
- ❏ Understand the importance of rodenticide stewardship, with particular reference to the safe use of SGARs in open areas & the minimisation of risks to birds.

Candidates completing the course will attain an approved proof of Rodenticide certificate which will allow them to buy professional use second generation anticoagulant rodenticide products.

Please could you let Christine know if you would like to attend this course at Ossett or if you would be interested in another date/place to do the course.

## Pig and Poultry Event



Garth, in conjunction with Minster Poultry Practice (York), are holding a one day conference at Sandburn Hall, York on 26<sup>th</sup> November. The theme of the day will be Antimicrobials and what restricted use will mean to the businesses we service. You will be receiving a fuller invite next week so please put this date in your diary NOW and make sure you are able to attend. This will affect us all so it's important we/you are prepared.

## Antimicrobial Monitoring

As published in the last Newsletter the 1<sup>st</sup> October was the point in time that in order to comply with Red Tractor assurance you require an annual record of all antimicrobials used on your unit(s) and whatever form they come in (in-feed, water or injectable). We have collated all the antimicrobials we have supplied to you in that period and that will be sent in paper form to you shortly. We can and will supply that data in electronic form if you require it. This is particularly pertinent to those that are using in feed medication that is supplied and added at mill level. That data can then be added to the spreadsheet we supply to give you totals by type and a total farm total. The mills should already have supplied you this data. We are happy to come and help with completion of this data if required or talk you through it. Please contact Christine at Garth if you require the data electronically or help processing.

## Eradication of PRRS

### from the Horne Peninsular

#### Denmark



PRRS is a very challenging disease which has widespread effects on both the breeding and feeding herd on units without good levels of control. At a recent conference, on the subject, a vet from Denmark described a successful eradication program, across a small number of farms, on a peninsular in Denmark.

Twelve units are found on this peninsula and all were involved. They had previously been attempting to tackle PRRS on their own. However in 2013 they decided with the direction of their mutual vet to attempt to eradicate PRRS.

The units were arranged into 2 pyramids with no major stock movements onto the peninsular from elsewhere in Denmark. The farms were distributed as follows at the start:

- 2 breeding herds – positive but stable
- 2 breeding herds – positive and shedding
- 2 W-F – positive and shedding
- 6 Finisher – positive and shedding

The strategies varied depending on the types of unit and the disease status. However they involved both intensive vaccination of both sows and piglets and partial depopulation of specific stages to create breaks in production. This was combined with monthly testing to ascertain disease status.

All sow units were negative for PRRS after 6 months and this remained the same for the rest of the period. However one of the pyramids took 20 months to eventually clear the disease from all the finisher production sites. However eventually the program was successful.

Obviously this was a very small project, with only a small number of units involved and with advantageous geography. However the reason it worked is because all the farmers involved were committed to the program and worked hard to achieve what they did.

If we are ever to become free of this disease then we need to look at small models such as this as a starting point. Obviously the barriers of coordinating farmers, vets and industry across larger regional or even national areas are significant. However this example does demonstrate what can be achieved if we can get a coordinated approach with widespread buy in.

## New products

### Reprocyc® PRRS EU and Ingelvac PRRSFLEX® EU

Boehringer Ingelheim has recently introduced two new PRRS vaccines to the UK.

Reprocyc® PRRS EU, a vaccine designed specifically for sows/gilts, reduces the reproductive effects of the disease, reduces virus transmission from sows to piglets and reduces the negative impact of infection on piglets born to vaccinated sows (lower mortality and improved weight gain).

The second vaccine, Ingelvac PRRSFLEX® EU, is designed specifically for piglets to reduce respiratory signs associated with PRRS and the negative effects of the infection on piglet performance. These new vaccines can be used as part of a whole herd PRRS management programme for sustainable whole herd PRRS control. Ask your vet for further details.

## Topical Talk – what we are seeing....

### Rectal prolapses

This is a widespread condition seen on many pig farms in growing pigs. Problems arise when the prolapses are cannibalised by other pigs, which can occasionally result in the formation of a rectal stricture caused by scarring of the damaged tissue. Unfortunately pigs with a rectal stricture will require euthanasia as these will not recover.

The fundamental cause is an increase in abdominal pressure which forces the rectum to exteriorise. There may well be breed or gender predispositions. The following may contribute to an increase in abdominal pressure - excessive coughing, huddling in cold weather, straining from scour (or constipation), excessive stocking rates and wet or slippery flooring. Sudden diet changes onto ad lib high density diets may also be implicated, especially in fast growing pigs. Mycotoxins in the feed or straw can increase the incidence of rectal prolapses. Also consider possible trauma to the rectal area including boar riding, tail biting or very short docking of tails.



Identification and control of any contributing factors on your farm will be key to minimising the occurrence and keeping the incidence below the 2% level.