

### Q What is IBR?

A. IBR is a disease caused by a virus which leads to coughing and discharges from the nose and mouth. In severe cases, pneumonia leads to death. Infection in adult cattle can also cause reduced fertility, abortion and severe milk drop.

### Q How common is IBR?

A. IBR contributes to calf pneumonia although not as commonly as other viruses.

### Q Are cattle 'safe' after they have recovered from infection?

A. No. IBR virus is similar to the virus that causes cold-sores in man; after infection, cattle remain life-long carriers of virus. When stressed, carriers shed virus and are a source of infection for other cattle.

### Q Can I protect against IBR?

A. Yes. IBR vaccines are available, including marker vaccines which allow distinction of vaccinated cattle from those that have been exposed to infection. Vaccination is useful on farms where infected animals are present or in the face of an outbreak, where it can reduce the spread of the disease.

### Q Can I export vaccinated cattle?

A. No. Countries that are free of IBR are not allowed to import cattle with IBR antibodies, even if they have been vaccinated with a marker vaccine. Similar rules apply to bulls being used for AI.

### Q Do I have IBR on my farm?

A. Bulk milk testing on unvaccinated dairy farms gives a good indication. Testing a proportion of homebred animals and suspicious cases is of value. To prevent introducing IBR, avoid contact with neighbouring cattle and quarantine and test bought-in animals.

### Q How do I become accredited free from IBR?

A. Under the CheCS rules, to become accredited, all cattle of 12 months or older must test clear of antibodies to IBR on 2 occasions, at least 4 weeks apart. To maintain accreditation, a proportion of the herd have to test clear annually. In addition, quarterly bulk milk monitoring is required on dairy herds.

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