

Mentor Programmes

PneumoMentor

OVERVIEW

The XLVets Skillnet PneumoMentor is disease monitoring training programme available to livestock farmers.

Respiratory disease is the leading cause ill health and death on Irish farms. There are obvious costs in terms of veterinary treatments and deaths while it can be the unseen cost associated with life-long poor performance that can be even greater for the farmer.

Even apparently recovered animals are affected by reduced thrive and weight gain. In dairy heifers, this will result in smaller cows with poor milk yield and longevity within the herd. In beef animals, poor feed conversion efficiency result in higher feed costs and reduced profitability.

The Pneumo Mentor programme aims to identify the pathogens (viral and bacterial) that caused the respiratory disease by measuring antibody levels in the blood of recovered animals.

Armed with this information, the vet and the farmer can make informed decisions on how best to avoid similar problems occurring in subsequent years. It is most useful on farms with high use of antibiotics associated with pneumonia treatment.

Where a NasoMentor may not have had any positive result, the PneumoMentor may help determine the likely cause.

The PneumoMentor programme aims to;

- Identify pathogens causing pneumonia
- Use results to advise on minimising infectious pressure
- Improve animal immunity through use of vaccines
- Advise on good ventilation and stocking levels in housing
- Avoid the need of excessive antibiotic use in cattle



ANALYSIS

Following a pneumonia outbreak where animals have recovered and there is adequate time for a measurable seroconversion (antibody production).

5 serum samples are tested for BVD,RSV,PI3, IBR and Mycoplasma Bovis.

FARMER BENEFIT

XLVet Skillnet's PneumoMentor programme aims to educate farmers on how interaction of husbandry, animal and disease factors result in outbreaks on farm.

The vets engages in a one to one discussion with the farmer to advise on how they can improve performance and welfare on their farm by putting a suitable vaccination programme in place, thus preventing future outbreaks.

Engaging in the PneumoMentor programme can help farmers reduce antibiotic usage, increase profitability but also help improve their herd health management skills and learn more about a preventative approach.



Farmer Fee

€100

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