

## Is it housing time already?

# How are you going to be dealing with pneumonia?

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Pneumonia in cattle can have multiple onsets (virus, bacteria, worms), and it results as a combination of factors, or stressors if you like, that slow down the immune system, such as: weaning, transport, crowding, weather, dust, poor ventilation, etc.

Pneumonia affects your farm's profitability, not only because of the mortality rates but, indirectly, it causes the animals to lose weight or not put on as much weight/grow as you would like them to. Do not forget the vet bills and all the medicine costs that almost always hold hands with this disease. Thus, prevention is key and the best cost-effective way to reduce the spreading of pneumonia within a herd.

Prior to starting a vaccination protocol, you should review your herd's health condition regarding infectious diseases and test the animals, if necessary, with the assistance of your vets. The main goals with vaccination are to increase the animals' immunity and, at the same time, reduce the amount of virus (in case of a pneumonia caused by virus) those animals breathe out.

Besides vaccination, you should always ensure the sheds are clean, dry and disinfected. The animals should be free to move around, eat and drink. Avoid overcrowding sheds and ensure there's a good air flow inside them.

Speak to your vets, because it is possible to analyse your facilities to make sure all these parameters are met, and also review and adjust your herd health plan, if necessary, in regards to the health status and vaccination of your herd.

### **Need further help?**

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.  
Call the practice on **01566 772371** or **visit us online**.