



FMDV Vaccine to Live

An event organised by NFUS, Moredun and Scottish Government

Tuesday 15 March 2011

Report from Break Out Session Two

FMD vaccine use: when would it be used?

Leader - Sam Mansley, Animal Health (retired)

Scribe - Iain Tomlinson, Defra

When it might be appropriate to consider the use of vaccines?

- In discussion the following factors were identified as being crucial in enabling the Minister to formulate their decision:
 - Number of infected premises
 - The bio security controls on farms
 - The susceptible species (cattle, pigs or sheep) – both affected and at risk
 - Stocking density
 - Volume of tracings (having robust movement controls)
 - Distribution of outbreaks
 - Number of outbreaks
 - Type of virus
 - If the disease had been confirmed in the wild animal population (less control over spread)
 - Meteorological data
 - Geographical data
 - Season (especially around the big Spring and Autumn livestock markets)
 - Public perception (public will want to see vaccination, but will they want to buy meat vaccinated against FMD?)
 - Science and ethics
- The group could offer no simplistic advice to the two crucial questions of when and where to start a vaccination campaign due to the complexity of any unfolding disease outbreak.
- The group thought that current national movement controls should remain in place and that farm biosecurity measures should be positively encouraged and backed up by continuing publicity and education.
- It was also acknowledged that the decision would be resource driven. There would be a much greater cost incurred by farmers in keeping vaccinated stock, whilst at the same time the value of vaccinated animals is likely to be greatly diminished (pigs becoming virtually valueless through the inability of processors having the facilities and equipment to meet the required processing standards).

- It was unanimously agreed by the group that the policy on vaccination (particularly whether it was to be 'vaccinate to live' or 'vaccinate to kill') must be agreed between stakeholders and Government in advance of an outbreak using meetings such as today's as a stepping stone.

Should animal owners who want to vaccinate their animals be allowed to do so?

- The group consensus was no, it should only be carried out by authorised vaccinators within designated vaccination zones (except for situations outlined in question 3 below)

Should vaccination be carried out for zoo animals and rare susceptible species?

- The group agreed that this should be permitted [rare breeds being defined through the UK breeds at risk Register?]

Is vaccination the best way to alleviate the problem of carcass disposal?

- Again the group agreed vaccination must be considered if these problems were arising.

Additional comments

- The group thought that consumers would generally be in favour of vaccinating animals against disease (the theory being that if the vaccine is available we should be using it), but were unsure of what the consumer demand for meat vaccinated against FMD would be.
- It was suggested that it might be useful to conduct some social research on consumer views on vaccination for FMD and whether consumers would be happy to buy meat (or food products) from animals that had been vaccinated against FMD? Linda Lowseck, CVO Jersey, did mention later that she knew someone who had carried out some work along these lines.