

Introducing Biobos IBR Marker Vaccine

Biobos IBR is a new, innovative vaccine for immunising cattle against the disease infectious bovine rhinotracheitis (IBR).

The virus that causes IBR is bovine herpes virus. The disease is a viral infection of the upper respiratory tract, with symptoms including coughing, difficulty breathing, runny eyes and noses. IBR has also been implicated with catarrh.

Like all herpesviruses (e.g. cold sores in humans) once an animal is infected it is infected for life. The virus remains 'latent' in the body and infection can be reactivated in times of stress. Clinical signs of IBR are most often seen following mixing of mobs of animals (e.g. calves or heifers sent to grazing), introduction of the pregnant heifers into the herd, calving, other disease challenge, nutritional check, etc. Therefore it makes good sense to vaccinate calves to protect them from any 'growth checks' associated with viral infection.

The novel thing about Biobos IBR marker vaccine is that it allows differentiation of animals that are vaccinated from those exposed to natural infection with IBR virus or vaccinated with traditional vaccines. This is a significant advance in vaccine technology and the first time such a vaccine is available for use in cattle in New Zealand. The testing laboratories can undertake a specifically developed test which shows the differentiated result.

In addition, the modern Biobos IBR marker vaccine has been proven to reduce viral shedding by 10,000 times when vaccinated animals are exposed to natural infection (compared with unvaccinated animals). This has the potential to allow for significant reduction of the virus in the environment, and hence reduced infection of other naïve animals.

It is great to have a new, modern tool to assist with control of this insidious herpes virus. If you would like to discuss your IBR vaccination program, please call the clinic to make a time to speak to your vet.

Biobos IBR marker vaccine is a restricted veterinary medicine, registered pursuant to the ACVM Act, 1997, No A11239.