



How **vaccination** against calf scours has **changed my life**



Could you describe the situation on your farm before the implementation of vaccination against calf scour?

During summer, all was going well but every winter we were facing outbreaks of diarrhoea in young calves. This was a real nightmare.

We spent our time finding and treating the sick calves, often with poor results. In addition to mortality, sometimes up to 15%, calves that survived could never reach the level of performance of healthy ones.

To replace culled cows, we had to buy heifers, rather than producing them ourselves and this was very costly.



“ Indeed, if the situation had not been resolved, we would have probably stopped farming ”



Why have you started to vaccinate?

This started 2 years ago: after having treated several calves in the same week, my vet advised us to implement a prevention programme. He analysed several samples of diarrhoea, which showed a strong presence of Rotavirus and *E. coli*, then he recommended we vaccinate all pregnant cows, so that they can protect their calves through the colostrum.



Is it easy to implement a vaccination programme?

Much easier than I thought at the beginning!

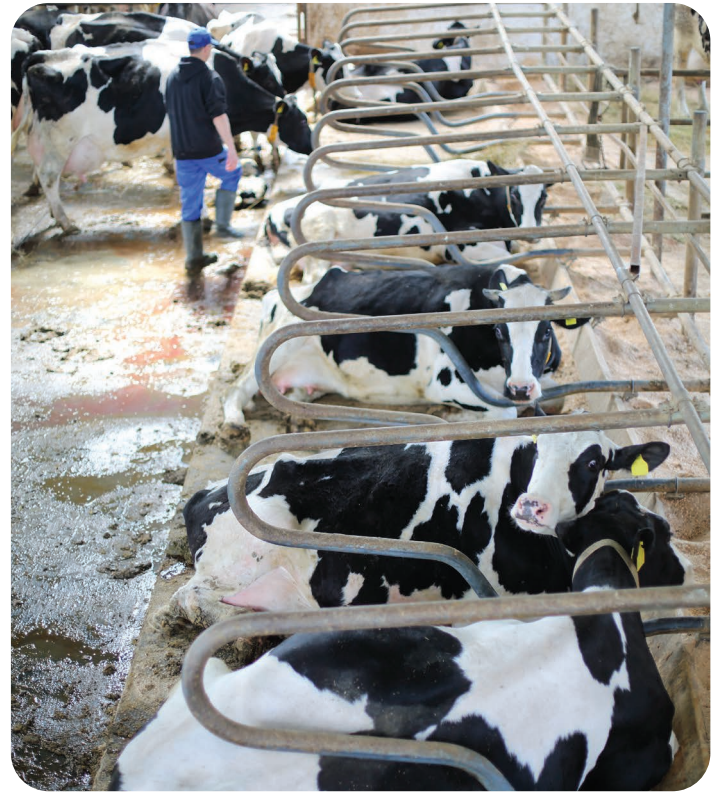
Rather than vaccinating each cow at dry-off, we prefer to group cows at similar stages of pregnancy and vaccinate the whole group at one time. This is more economical because we can use the biggest vials which are obviously cheaper.

“ We use a vaccine called Bovigen Scour®. It needs only one injection per pregnancy and this is very convenient ”



How long does it take to vaccinate your herd?

We have 220 dairy cattle. As we have cows calving all year round, we generally do 4 vaccination sessions per year. It takes less than an hour to vaccinate each group of cows, this is nothing in comparison with the time needed in the past to treat sick calves.



What are the main benefits of vaccination that you've seen?

I would say the peace of mind. We are happy to go on our farm each morning without finding sick calves. Vaccination has increased the welfare of our herd but also ours.



Contrary to what I thought at the beginning, vaccination has helped us to decrease our production costs

Even if male calves have a low value, saving females allows us to buy less heifers and this is a huge saving, much more than the cost of the vaccine.

Ask for **advice** from your **veterinary practitioner**