

## What are the clinical signs of leptospirosis?

The first sign is often a drop in milk yield, but other signs include:

- fever
- loss of appetite
- sudden loss of milk with flaccid udder (flabby bag)
- abortion – usually 6-12 weeks after infection

## How do I know my cattle have it?

Many farmers are unaware of their herd's infection status. Yet there is a simple tool to diagnose this disease called DairyCheck, a standard bulk milk screening scheme from MSD Animal Health.

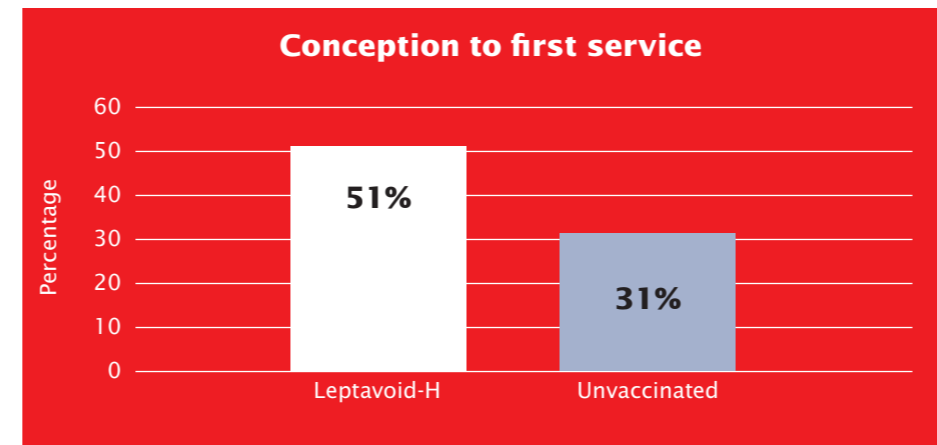
Available from leading vet practices, DairyCheck results will be returned to your vet in around a week.



## Leptavoid™-H is proven to increase conception rates

Vaccination with Leptavoid-H is proven to increase conception rates where leptospirosis is diagnosed as a cause of infertility. In split herd trials, cows vaccinated with Leptavoid-H had a 20% higher conception rate than unvaccinated cows.

The conception rate in the group vaccinated with Leptavoid-H was 51% whereas the conception rate in the unvaccinated group was 31%. The cows were examined for BVD, IBR and trace element deficiencies and leptospirosis was found to be the only cause of infertility.



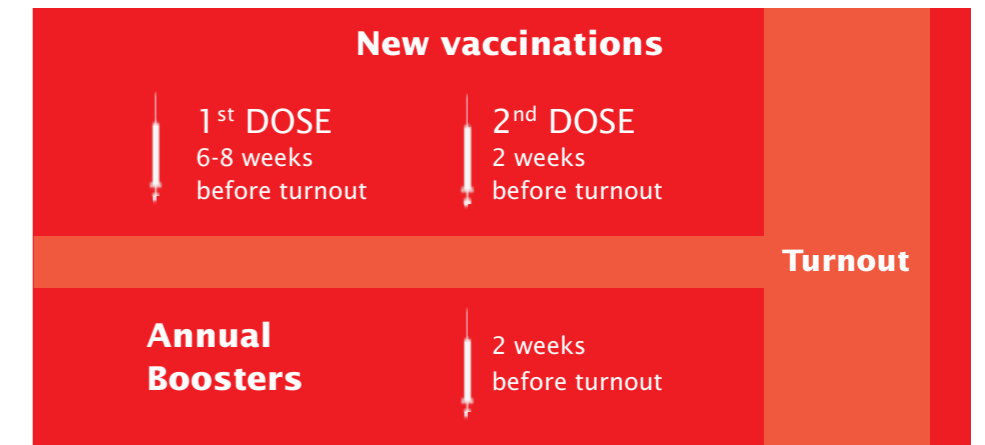
**Leptospirosis significantly reduces herd fertility.<sup>1</sup>**



## Timing of vaccination

Vaccines are available against leptospirosis, but only one protects against both strains that threaten cattle – Leptavoid-H. This vaccine is also the only one licensed to improve fertility, when infertility is diagnosed as caused by *Leptospira hardjo*.

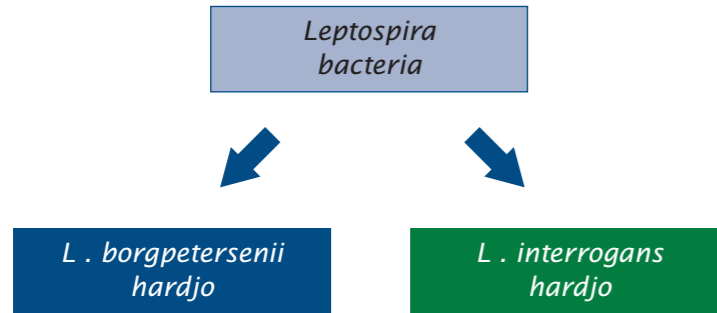
- Heifers and bought-in stock you are unsure about should receive a two-dose primary course that is completed two weeks ahead of turnout.
- Previously vaccinated stock will simply need an annual booster, again two weeks prior to turnout.



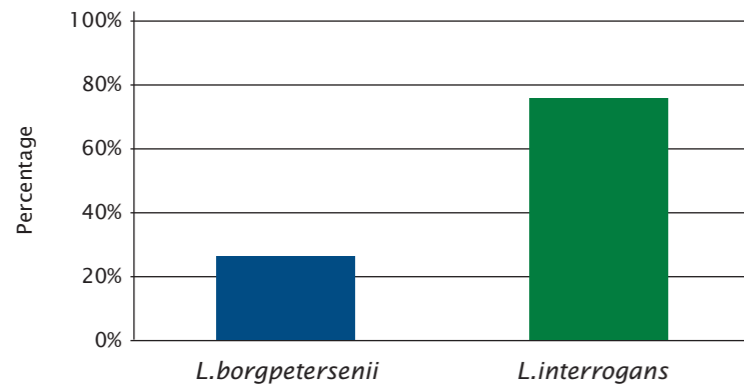
## WARNING – don't leave heifers exposed.

All too often, heifers get their first vaccine at the same time the rest of the herd receives a booster. This is too late to ensure they receive the full two-dose course before turnout and, so, ahead of the risk period. Talk to your vet about planning vaccine administration.

## Two different *Leptospira hardjo* strains affect cattle:



A survey of clinical leptospirosis<sup>2</sup>



**Leptavoid™-H is the ONLY Leptospirosis vaccine licensed to protect against both *Leptospira hardjo* strains**

## Action plan:

Can you afford to put up with the costs of sub-optimal fertility which could be linked to leptospirosis infection?

- Check your infection status with DairyCheck
- Talk to your vet about vaccination timing
- Select **Leptavoid-H**, the only vaccine licensed to protect against both strains AND to improve herd fertility when infertility is diagnosed as caused by *Leptospira hardjo*

### References:

1. Williams. World Buiatrics 1996.
2. Ellis, W.A. et al, Res. Vet. Sci. 1988 Vol 44 Pg 375-379

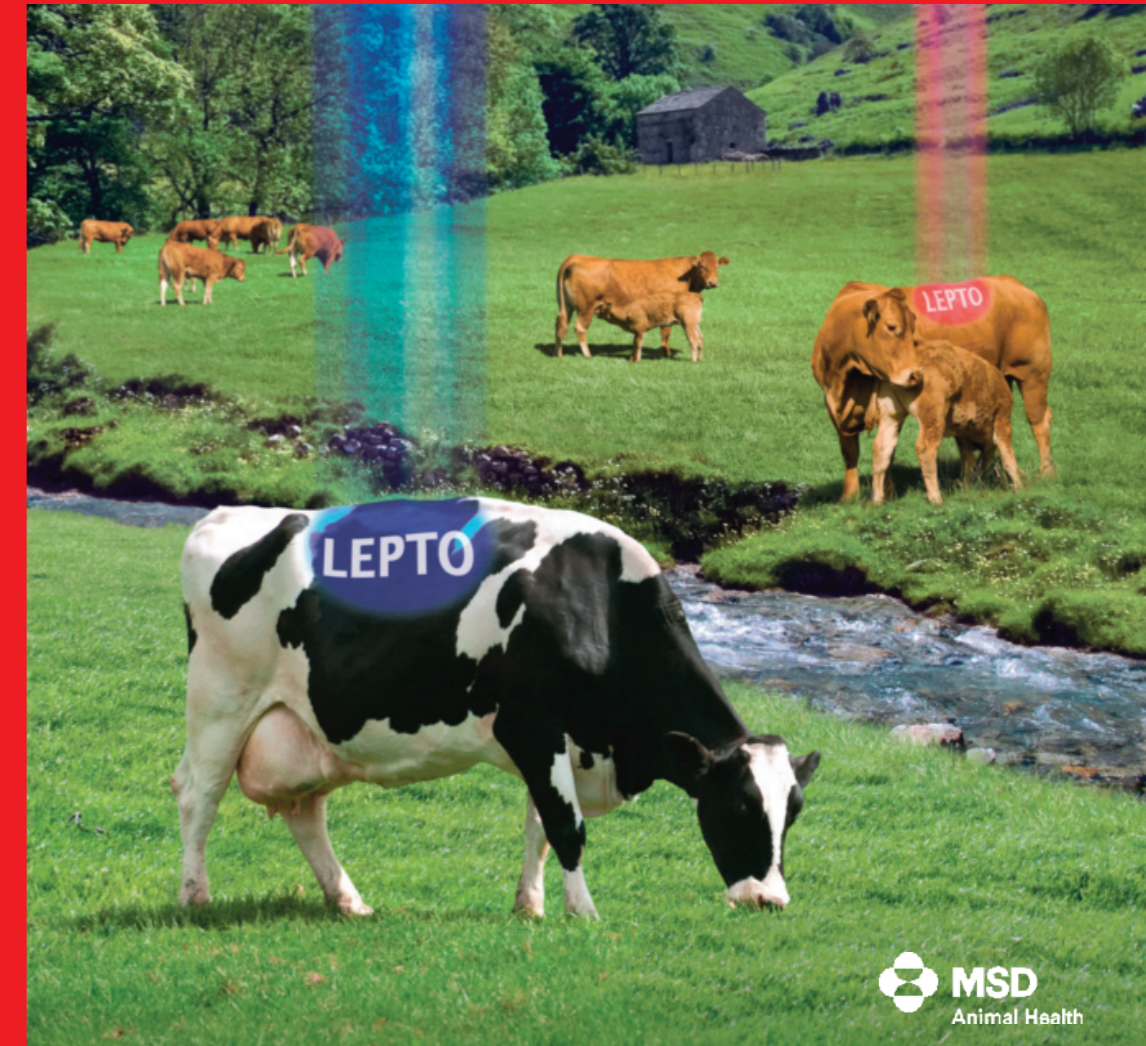
Leptavoid-H vaccine contains *Leptospira interrogans* serovar *hardjo* (*prajitno*). For the active immunization of cattle from 1 month of age against *Leptospira interrogans* serovar *hardjo* and *L. borgpetersenii* serovar *hardjo*. To improve herd fertility when infertility is diagnosed as caused by *Leptospira hardjo*. Vaccinated cattle may be positive for diagnostic tests and therefore unacceptable for export to some countries. Can be used during pregnancy but should not be administered within two weeks of breeding as this may reduce conception rates. This may be due to handling stress rather than a specific vaccine effect. It should be considered when timing A.I. especially with valuable semen. Syringes and needles should be sterilised before use and the injection made subcutaneously through an area of clean, dry skin taking precautions against contamination. The vaccine should be well shaken to resuspend the precipitate. Part used containers should be discarded at the end of the day's operations. Any unused veterinary medicinal product or waste materials derived from such veterinary medicinal products should be disposed of in accordance with local requirements. It should be remembered that no vaccine is 100% effective and that the risk of transmission of leptospirosis from cattle to their handlers, remains. Appropriate precautions should be maintained at all times and prompt medical advice sought in the event of clinical signs of possible infection. Administration of the first dose may produce a small swelling in most animals. This normally resolves within 18 days of administration. A more significant swelling may occur in the majority of animals after administration of the second dose which will resolve slowly over the following 28 days or longer. A transient temperature rise may occur following the second vaccination. Occasional hypersensitivity reactions may occur. In the case of hypersensitivity the use of adrenaline or other appropriate treatment is recommended. An overdose of vaccine may result in a moderate swelling of the injection site that may persist for 8 weeks. Do not mix with any other medicinal product. Store and transport at +2°C to + 8°C. Protect from light. Do not freeze. Withdrawal period: Zero days. Contraindications: None.

Legal Category: ROI: **LM** NI: **POM-VPS**  
Use Medicines Responsibly

Further information is available from your prescriber, or from:  
MSD Animal Health, Red Oak North, South County Business Park, Leopardstown,  
Dublin 18, Ireland. Tel: (+353)(0)1 2970220.



## VACCINATE COWS NOW TO PROTECT AGAINST LEPTOSPIROSIS



## LEPTAVOID™-H IS LICENSED FOR CONCURRENT USE WITH BOVILIS® BVD

