An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

EVA VACCINE SHORTAGE 2023 – INFORMATION NOTE

Background:

- Equine Viral Arteritis (EVA) is caused by Equine Arteritis Virus (EAV), and is a **contagious viral disease** that affects all equine animals.
- In Ireland it is a **notifiable disease**, meaning any suspect case should be immediately isolated indoors and reported to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) without delay.
- As the virus can be **spread through infected semen** (either from natural cover or artificial insemination) all **breeding and teaser stallions** are strongly **recommended to be vaccinated** against the disease.

EVA Vaccines:

- Equip Artervac, made by Zoetis, is the only licensed vaccine currently available in Europe for protection against EVA.
- Zoetis have announced that there will be a **shortage of the vaccine in 2023**, with the current batch due to expire on March 29th 2023, and no new batch expected to be available again until autumn 2023.
- As per the product's data sheet, this vaccine should be given as follows:
  - A **primary course of two doses**, 3-6 weeks apart
  - **Booster vaccinations every 6 months**
- This vaccine shortage will therefore result in **currently vaccinated breeding and teaser stallions falling behind with their booster schedule** during 2023.

DAFM Recommended Surveillance Plan for 2023:

- **All vaccinated stallions and teasers are strongly encouraged to submit post-vaccine serum samples (3-4 weeks after administration) to the CVRL Virology Division.**

- **All vaccinated stallions and teasers are strongly encouraged to submit surveillance serum samples at minimum six month intervals to the CVRL Virology Division.**

- **As this is in line with the current DAFM EVA vaccine provision and serological surveillance scheme for breeding stallions, it is not expected to cause any additional costs for industry.**

- **Adherence to this protocol will mean that the next pre-vaccination titres that are taken once the vaccine becomes available again can be more accurately interpreted.**

- **This should help minimise the numbers of irregular results which warrant further investigation from the NDCC and the laboratory services.**

- **This is also beneficial for breeders who will not want their animals restricted until disease investigations can be completed.**

- **Once the date of return of the vaccine to the market is confirmed by the manufacturer, further guidance will be issued in relation to recommencement of vaccination schedules.**

- For more information on EVA see the EVA page on the gov.ie website

- Please send any queries in relation to EVA to ndcc@agriculture.gov.ie