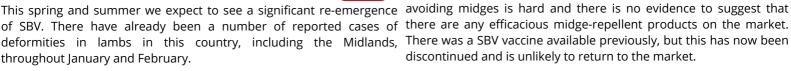
Schmallenberg Virus (SBV)

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UK in 2012 when infected midges were blown over from Europe. SBV affects sheep, cattle, goats and potentially camelids. APHA are the only realistic option available to us to reduce the impact of currently carrying out free SBV testing on any deformed foetuses you disease is to move mating to later, to avoid exposure to midges of have born on farm - just call the practice to arrange this if required.

Schmallenberg has multiple effects on different species. In adult cattle, signs include reduced milk yield, inappetence, high temperature, loss So far, we have seen SBV outbreaks in the UK every 3-5 years. The of body condition and diarrhoea. The (more pressing) issue is that it good news for now is that there's likely to be little circulation of SBV can cross the placenta to the calf. Foetuses appear to be worst next year, and animals affected this year will be unlikely to have affected when infection occurs from day 62-180 gestation, and another affected pregnancy. Unlike Bluetongue, SBV isn't a deformities include bent limbs (deformities may be all limbs and spine, notifiable disease. However, we often can't tell by just looking at or only some limbs or joints), brain deformities and damage to the deformed foetuses whether the deformities are caused by SBV, BTV spinal cord. Fixed flexion/fusion of the joints is very common. Some or BVD, so testing is important. animals are born with a normal appearance but have nervous signs such as a 'dummy' presentation (blindness, wobbliness, going down, an inability to suck, and sometimes seizures).

Adult sheep and goats don't show much in the way of clinical disease but foetuses are affected in the same way as calves, the most severe signs being seen when infection occurs from day 25 – 50 gestation.

It would be nice to think that we could prevent this disease by protecting animals from midges and by vaccination. However, there are any efficacious midge-repellent products on the market. There was a SBV vaccine available previously, but this has now been discontinued and is unlikely to return to the market.

March 2024

Schmallenberg is a virus carried by midges, and it first arrived in the Since early mating/lambing flocks and spring calving herds will likely be worst affected, based on our experience of previous outbreaks, animals that are in the susceptible stages of pregnancy. This is difficult though, as midge activity can be hard to predict.



Undershot jaws like this are another type of deformity that can be seen in SBV-affected lambs.

<u>Bluetongue</u>

Erin Beever BVMS BSc MRCVS





Bluetongue Virus (BTV). BTV is a virus that affects ruminants and camelids. It was originally discovered in Southern Europe but with changes in weather, it has made its way further north. The first outbreak of BTV in the UK was in 2007. In autumn 2023, cattle and sheep positive for BTV were found in Norfolk and Kent during routine surveillance.

BTV is spread primarily by Culicoides midges which are most active between April and November. However, it can be spread through semen and across the placenta to foetuses. Clinical signs vary but tend to be more severe in sheep with up to 30% of infected animals dying. You may see high temperatures, swollen faces, blue tongues, excess salivation, difficulty breathing, or signs of lameness. In cattle, clinical signs tend to be milder and can include discharge from the eyes, excess salivation, reduced milk yield and poor fertility. In some cases, infected animals may not show any signs of disease or if infected when pregnant, may have stillborn or weak offspring.





BTV has numerous different serotypes, so while there are vaccines available, none protect against the current circulating serotype, BTV-3. There is limited evidence that insect repellents can prevent infection, but use of midge netting or fans may be beneficial for protecting high value animals. Treatment is supportive but tends to be ineffective. If you suspect BTV, please notify your veterinarian as it is a notifiable disease and must be reported to

If you'd like to know more, and to keep abreast of the current https://ruminanthw.org.uk/bluetongue-virus/. This is an excellent source of information on BTV and is updated regularly.

ScarsdaleVets

www.scarsdalefarmandequine.com

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS - ON THE FARM

(Rin Winn and Charlotte Atkinson)





Two of our Client Care Advisors, Charlotte and Rin, recently attended a Mental Health Awareness Course, covering all aspects of mental health within the farming community.

The course was run by the DPJ Foundation (Daniel Picton Jones) which was set up in July 2016 following the death of Daniel, a farmer from Pembrokeshire who took his own life after suffering from poor mental

His widow, Emma, decided to set up the foundation to support the mental health of those in the farming sector.

Agriculture carries one of the highest rates of suicide. Poor mental health in agriculture is recognised as a big problem across society.

Farming is an excellent career and can provide huge benefits to those who work in the sector. However, it is a career that comes with huge pressure, isolation and demand on a daily basis and it is often difficult to reach out for help. Sometimes it's easier to talk to a stranger than relatives or friends.

Badger Sett Surveys

Don't forget there is still funding available for trained TBAS advisers to carry out badger sett surveys on your farm. If you don't already know where the badger setts are on your farm, or haven't had a survey carried out already, then this could be a good chance to have one done. The best time to do badger sett surveys is in spring, between March and May. Please call the clinic if you're interested.







FlockCheck 2024

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There are many organisations and helplines specific to the farming community that offer listening and support.

One in four people suffer from poor mental health at some point in their lives.

One in six people are experiencing poor mental health at any one

One in five people have suicidal thoughts.

In 2018, 6,507 people died by suicide, compared to 1,784 people dying on the roads.

94% of farmers under 40 believe mental health is the biggest danger facing the industry.

36% of farmers are probably depressed.

We have copies of the Yellow Wellies Farm Safety Foundation's "Little Book of Minding Your Head" in reception which is a perfect guide for mental health awareness on your farm.

Please remember we are always here.

"Nobody else can walk in your shoes but we can listen and try to understand."





MSD Animal Health, the makers of toxovax and enzovax, are running their FlockCheck scheme again this year, which will run from now until June. It is designed for flocks with 100 or more breeding ewes, but if you're interested in accessing the funding and your flock is smaller than that, please speak to us.

Blood samples are taken from 6-8 barren or aborted ewes and tested for antibodies against Chlamydia abortus (EAE) and Toxoplasma gondii, two of the most common causes of abortion in ewes. MSD will pay the lab fees for these samples.

The testing is designed for ewes that were scanned in lamb and then never lambed, or ones that were known to abort (the antibodies start to wane after 3 months and so there's a risk of false negatives if ewes that never got in lamb are tested). It's not suitable for ewes that have been vaccinated against these two diseases.

If you've had early/mid pregnancy losses or later abortions in your flock and would like to access the funding, please speak to one of our

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