

## *Welcome to our farm focused newsletter*

It's that time of year as we all get ready for "The Show". As per usual we are in our spot just up from the cattle rings at STAND NUMBER 703. We are really looking forward to seeing you there; although we can sometimes struggle to put names to faces when we are not in your territory and you are in smart clothes rather than the wellies, boiler suits and KFE beanie hats. For those of you showing we wish you a successful event and hope to catch up with you there.

We have a few competitions and are keen to let you know about our various services as well as providing a space to rest, sit down, have a drink, and chat. Perhaps you'll meet a vet you haven't met before or put a face to the reception team members you've spoken to.

### **Bluetongue 3**

This is a viral disease that is spread by infected midges. It affects all ruminants— sheep, cattle, goats, deer, alpacas and camelids. There have been multiple cases of confirmed BTV 3 this is a different strain to the one that caused problems in 2006 to 2008 in Europe and the UK.

Clinical signs include depression, raised temperature, swollen head, stiffness, nasal discharge, eye discharge, ulcers in the mouth, swellings around the coronet, drooling, swollen teats, difficulty breathing, abortion and poor fertility. It can also result in brain damaged calves etc. Also if the virus infects the dam at the correct time the offspring may be born with virus and be infectious.

As of 1st July the whole of England will be in a Blue tongue restricted zone. This means that animals can be moved more easily which can potentially increase the risk of infected animals moving and increasing the risk of infection spreading to midges which can then bite your animals infecting them.

**ANY SUSPICION OF DISEASE CALL APHA 03000200301**

Please do not hesitate to call us on 01208 76403. Office hours 8.30am-5-30pm Mon-Fri and 8.30am-12pm Saturday (SHOW WEEK-OFFICE CLOSED SAT AM) and we have vets available 24 hours a day.



@kernowfarm



@KernowVets



@Kernowfarmandequine



Fly products will not prevent midges biting. The only real way to protect your livestock from becoming infected is to vaccinate.

It only takes one bite from an infected midge to cause infection in susceptible animals –ruminants. Infection can also spread to the foetus and they may be born infected, germ-plasm can also be infected, needles can spread infection too. Sheep are the most severely affected animals. In 2024 The Netherlands experienced an extra 65000 sheep deaths ,and the UK vet experience suggest 70% mortality. It will also cause fertility problems –increased barren rates, reduced conception rates, increased still births and also the birth of congenitally infected animals if the dam was infected in the later parts of the first third of pregnancy and the early part of the second. In the dairy sector yield reductions of 10% lasting 6 weeks have been reported.

Signs to watch out for can be found on

<https://ruminanthw.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Bluetongue-farmer-leaflet-Jan-25-1.pdf>

*If animals have FEVER swollen FACE swollen FEET think BLUETONGUE*

## Bluetongue Vaccination

We can source 2 vaccines Buvalto 3. Syvazul BTV3. The dose size varies depending on the brand and species.

For sheep both vaccines are given under the skin and require a single injection and as it's a new vaccine there is no data on duration of immunity, it is likely that an annual booster will be required.

For cattle both vaccines are given into the muscle, and require a course of 2 injections separated by a period of 3 weeks, and again we expect an annual booster will be needed.

We need to inform APHA that you have purchased vaccine, there will also be a requirement that you inform APHA the date the vaccine has been used including the identity of the animals e.g. ear tags.

For the latest government advice

**[www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)**

search for bluetongue vaccine.

**Please contact us if you wish to discuss the use of vaccine.**

## Sheep Ectoparasites– Ticks, Flies and Lice and Scab

**Maggots**—we have already seen quite a few cases from mid April onwards.

Multiple products are available some protect against other parasites too e.g. ticks and lice.

Whatever product you use: be sure to get the best return on your investment in that product and your time spent applying it by reading the instructions.

### Checklist

- Weigh scales
- Correct nozzle for product used
- Weather forecast checked
- Gun calibrated to deliver correct dose (set to 1/4 of total dose)
- Withdrawal period suitable for animals treated
- Equipment to dag sheep before treatment if needed
- Worm egg count done -do they need worming as well?



E.g. Clik

- 1 ¼ of dose midline, from shoulders to mid-back
- 2 ¼ of dose midline, from mid-back to top of tail
- 3 ¼ of dose to one side of animal's tail and crutch
- 4 ¼ of dose to other side of animal's tail and crutch

To obtain even coverage along the back and crutch; applying the product in a pen might be easier than down a race, care should be taken that the animals are not too densely stocked so that the product rubs off or consider keeping lambs away from mum for a short time.

If you have feet issues strip/scald/foot rot, flies can be attracted to the smell and if you are only using insect growth regulators this will not prevent or kill maggots that then get onto the body from the feet when the sheep lies down.

## Sheep scab

We are still seeing cases of this, it is important to correctly identify the cause of your itchy sheep. We have had reports of suspected resistance to injectables. Sheep dipping is still the most reliable way to treat and also has an effect against lice, ticks and flies. It is important that ALL sheep on your holding are treated and if you have access to common grazing then you may need to collaborate to treat all simultaneously.



## Fly tipping

Sadly we are currently supporting a client with lead poisoning in his herd; blood test results from the first animals seen that subsequently died have confirmed this but other animals have been affected and are currently undergoing treatment. It might be worthwhile spending five minutes checking the fields when you move animals for signs of rubbish being dumped. Also be aware of bonfires; if there was a lead battery on the fire then this can be ingested, resulting in poisoning. Garden waste may contain toxic plants– Yew is very rapidly toxic, but we have also seen issues with Pieris and Rhododendron.

### ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE PATHWAY

Don't forget to sign up for this -this can count as your annual vet visit for Farm Assurance or getting a VAN number A BVD Control plan is a requirement of Red Tractor.

For cattle the focus is on BVD Control. For sheep to identify worm burdens and efficacy of wormers. There is also the chance to discuss other diseases and biosecurity on your farm.



**FREE  
FUNDING**

APHA have announced extra funding for further testing; we can also do multiple species.

- in cattle this can be used to identify and eliminate any PI animals.
- In sheep to investigate
  - Lameness control plans
  - Poor lamb performance– e.g. Trace elements, Border disease BD, parasites including liver fluke, helminths, coccidiosis. Tick borne diseases, Orf, Mastitis
  - Neonatal lamb survival -e.g. Border disease, toxoplasmosis, joint ill, ewe nutrition status, trace elements, mastitis, lamb dysentery
  - External Parasites– flystrike, ticks
  - Ewe condition e.g. MV, CLA, OPA, trace elements, fluke, haemonchosis, metabolic profiling
  - Reproductive performance e.g. EAE, BD, Toxo, trace elements, liver fluke and tick fever



Register using this link

<https://apply-for-an-annual-health-and-welfare-review.defra.gov.uk/apply/start>

See APHA BLOG for more details. <https://defrafarming.blog.gov.uk/tag/animal-health-and-welfare/>