

All the latest news and advice from our expert team

Farm news

June 2026

Introducing FerAppease® Carolyn Baguley MRCVS

At our client evening in March, we heard about four new products that our vets like the look of. FerAppease was one of them, and we hear more about it here.

FerAppease is available without prescription. Please ask us if you're interested in trying it.

What is it?

FerAppease® is a new, simple spot-on product that has been created to help to calm cattle. It is a synthetic analogue of a natural pheromone, secreted by glands on the udder skin, which soothes and comforts a calf whilst it suckles. When inhaled, this pheromone - Maternal Bovine Appeasement Substance (mBAS) - passes to the brain where it blocks cortisol release during periods of stress.

We know that cattle experiencing stress eat less, have poorer productivity, and have reduced weight gain or even lose weight. They also have a reduced immune response which means more disease as well as a poorer response to vaccines.

Studies in the US and UK have shown that FerAppease improves productivity by reducing the impact of stress on cattle at any age from young calves through to cows and even breeding bulls. FerAppease binds to the same brain receptor as mBAS and activates an identical pathway to Valium, lowering anxiety and blocking cortisol release. Cortisol is the hormone of stress, impacting on tissues from the liver to the guts by preparing the animal for fight or flight.

How is FerAppease used?

It's applied topically to the skin on the back of the poll, where natural sweat glands absorb the oils to release slowly, and above the muzzle for rapid action. Application prior to, or at the point of, the stressful event is advised.

When should FerAppease be used?

It should be used whenever cattle are about to be exposed to physical and physiological stressful events. Trials have shown that mBAS starts to work within 30 seconds of application and reaches full effect at 30 minutes, with the effects lasting at least 14 days.



Where can FerAppease help?

Since it has been on the market in the USA, FerAppease has been widely used in both dairy and beef production systems.

Stressful events, where FerAppease could help, include weaning, dehorning, castration, freeze-branding, transport, moving groups, vaccination and drying off.

An application of FerAppease has been shown to improve feed intakes, meaning more weight gain or milk production. Reduced stress has also been proven to reduce antibiotic treatments, reduce metritis and mastitis and ultimately improve meat or milk sales, as well as benefiting animal welfare.

Initial results from the UK dairy farms trialling the product in first lactation animals include:

- Rapid parlour training – reducing time on average by 50%
- Quicker rise to peak yield – reducing time on average by 11 days
- Increased daily production – on average an extra 3L per day at day 21
- Continued added production – with 1.6L at day 60 above predicted

The farms have continued to use FerAppease beyond the trial period with farm staff reporting significantly less time and stress in managing fresh heifers as they transition into the herd. These trials match results from elsewhere where large scale studies have shown reduced disease levels (RFM, metritis and mastitis) alongside 50% less ketosis.



Scarsdale Vets
FARM VETS

PART OF IVC EVIDENSIA



Welcome (Back) Vicki!

We're delighted to welcome Vicki Robertson, whom many of you will remember, back to the Scarsdale farm team. Vicki is now a clinical associate professor at the University of Nottingham and will be working with us for two days each week.

Vicki graduated from the University of Liverpool in 2015 and then went on to complete a year-long farm animal internship at University College Dublin (UCD) before coming to work at Scarsdale.

After completing her Graduate Certificate in Dairy Herd Health, she then went on to do a European College of Bovine Health Management residency, again at UCD.

She will be taking her European specialist board exams soon.

Vicki loves advanced farm animal surgeries and herd health investigations, and she especially loves emergency work in all farm species. She's looking forward to returning to Scarsdale and we're looking forward to working with her again!



Blue Tongue Vaccines

As we approach the start of this year's high-risk period for Bluetongue-3 transmission, now is the time to vaccinate, or to boost last year's BTV-3 vaccine, if you haven't already.

You may remember that it was advised last year to change or disinfect needles between each animal, since BTV can be transmitted between animals by shared needles. This was impractical on bigger farms, but it would be wise to do the following during any herd vaccination session from now until the high-risk period is over (whatever you're vaccinating for):

- Change needles as a minimum between each group of animals
- Change your needle straightaway if you see that it's been contaminated by blood

You may also have read about BTV-8 in the press. The current BTV outbreak in the UK has been caused by BTV-3, but last year there were a few cases of BTV-8, all in the south-west. APHA will be monitoring very carefully this year for any signs that BTV-8 is spreading further north. There is a vaccine for BTV-8 but unfortunately the BTV-3 vaccines don't give any cross protection against BTV-8. There's no need to panic, but please ask one of the vets if you want to talk about BTV-8, and we will keep abreast of the latest developments and surveillance information.

Farm and Equine Centre Markeaton Lane, Markeaton, Derby DE22 4NH 01332 294929	Alfreton 01773 304900	Allestree 01332 554422	Hilton 01283 732999	Langley Mill 01773 304914	Mickleover 01332 518585	Oakwood 01332 666500
	Pride Veterinary Centre 01332 678333	Shelton Lock 01332 700321	Stapenhill 01283 568162	Stretton 01283 565333		