



# Farm news

September 2025

## New product focus: AMBUGREEN™ from NoBACZ Healthcare

We'd like to introduce you to Ambugreen, a new product from NoBACZ Healthcare (the company behind NoBACZ Navel, which many of you have used on your youngstock).

Ambugreen is a gel barrier product which offers physical and microbial protection. Applied as a gel, it rapidly dries to form a waterproof, antibiotic-free barrier lasting for 1 to 3 days. It naturally biodegrades and flakes off so unlike a traditional bandage there is no need to remove, minimal environmental impact and no withdrawal period.

As a gel barrier it lasts longer than topical aerosol sprays (such as blue antibiotic spray or silver spray), and offers enhanced physical and microbial protection – being biofilm resistant and non-colonizable, it keeps bacteria out of wounds and allows for natural healing to occur. Ambugreen has been robustly trialled on infectious lesions of the hoof and udder in dairy cows, as well as on traumatic injuries in sheep and camelids.

Vets and farmers have seen great benefit when using it on udder cleft dermatitis (see the article below for more details...), feet, disbudding sites, surgical sites, orf lesions and other non-specific injuries.



### Our top tips for the use of gel barriers are:

1. Dry the site before use – Ambugreen sticks best to a dry site.
2. Don't use too much – aim for a 3 – 5 mm thick layer. Excess product will delay the time it takes to dry and reduce the benefit of the product (start with a pea sized blob and spread it – easier to add more than take it off!).



3. Don't worry about removal - it will naturally biodegrade and flake off over time without a trace! If you need to add more product then apply new product over old.

Get in touch with the team today to find out more about Ambugreen and how it could benefit your farm!



**RABI® QUIZ**

THURSDAY 16TH OCTOBER 7PM

PRIDE VETERINARY CENTRE

**£10 PER PERSON, INCLUDING PIE AND PEA SUPPER,  
PLUS BAR AND RAFFLE ON THE NIGHT (CASH  
DONATIONS ONLY).**

**BOOKING AND DIETARY REQUIREMENTS NEEDED BY  
FRIDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER.  
CALL 01332 294929 TO BOOK.**

## Are you looking for Udder Cleft Dermatitis?

Udder cleft dermatitis (UCD) is an increasingly recognized condition affecting dairy cows, especially in high-yielding herds. Though often overlooked, this painful skin condition can lead to animal discomfort, reduced milk yield, and secondary infections if not properly managed. In the worst cases fatalities due to haemorrhage or bacterial spread to the lungs and pneumonia are reported.

Recent work has demonstrated up to 26 % of cows are affected by UCD on UK dairy farms.

### What is Udder Cleft Dermatitis?

UCD is an inflammatory skin condition that typically develops in the cleft between the udder halves or between the udder and hind legs. It often begins as a moist, reddened area, which may develop into open sores, crusting, and a foul odour as the lesion progresses. The condition is not just superficial - it can indicate underlying issues in cow health, housing hygiene, or herd management.

Contrary to popular belief, UCD is not “digital dermatitis of the udder” and is more frequently caused by the anaerobic bacteria *Truperella pyogenes* and *Bacteroides pyogenes*, rather than the spirochaete bacteria that underlie digital dermatitis.

### How can we screen for UCD?

UCD lesions can be classified by size and healing phase. Using a telescopic mirror and simple 3-point scoring system (as devised by the UCD steering group, 2024), scoring of lesions can be done in the parlour, and our vets or vet techs can assist with this. Topical products, such as Ambugreen, can be applied in the parlour, allowing for use as soon as cases are identified.

The most significant risk factors for cows developing UCD are related to udder conformation, with deep udders and a weak fore-udder attachment being associated with higher UCD. Likewise, high parity and high milk yield have been shown to increase the risk.



### Management of affected cows:

UCD is a chronic condition, with lesions ranging in size from 2/3 cm to more than 20 cm in length. Therefore, managing these cases will take time. Screening cows to detect early cases is vital to managing the condition on farm.

Topical sprays offer limited protection, failing to get deep into the udder cleft and can't stand up to the environmental pressures. Ambugreen's gel barrier lasts longer than topical aerosol sprays and offers enhanced physical and microbial protection – being biofilm resistant, keeping bacteria out of these areas and allowing natural healing to occur.

Contact us if you'd like to know more about udder cleft dermatitis or if you'd like to try some Ambugreen!

## BATTLE + BLUETONGUE FACT CHECK

**MYTH**  
It's too late to vaccinate against Bluetongue.

**FACT**  
It isn't too late to vaccinate against Bluetongue.

Vaccinating now gives your animals time to build immunity before the virus spreads and protects your stock against the virus.

Talk to your vet about the best plan and protect your stock.



Get trusted, up-to-date information on bluetongue:  
[ruminanthw.org.uk/bluetongue-virus-hub](http://ruminanthw.org.uk/bluetongue-virus-hub)

Is it too late to vaccinate? No. We expect to see most clinical disease from BTV during September, October and November, so if you haven't vaccinated yet, there's still time for many farms.

There is no evidence to suggest that vaccination itself has any sort of negative effect on bull or ram fertility (and there's plenty of evidence that vaccination doesn't hamper fertility at all). What does affect fertility, though (as well as BTV itself), is stress during that critical first six weeks of pregnancy while the embryo is implanting.

So it might be wise, if possible, to avoid the stress of handling for vaccination at the start of mating:

### Tupping

**Aim to complete BTV vaccination at least a week before tupping starts.** For example, if tupping starts on 10<sup>th</sup> October, the last date to vaccinate ewes and rams for best breeding protection against BTV is 3<sup>rd</sup> October (but if you're doing the recommended 2-dose regime in your sheep rather than a single dose, the 3<sup>rd</sup> October is the date for the **second** dose – the same as the 'bulling' regime below).

### Bulling

Again, **aim to complete the vaccine course at least a week before mating starts.** For example, if the bull goes in to the cows on 10<sup>th</sup> October, the last date for the **first** BTV vaccine dose for the bull and cows is 12<sup>th</sup> September, and the corresponding last date for the **second** BTV vaccine dose is 3<sup>rd</sup> October.

### Farm and Equine Centre

Markeaton Lane, Markeaton, Derby DE22 4NH  
01332 294929

Alfreton  
01773 304900

Pride Veterinary Centre  
01332 678333

Allestree  
01332 554422

Shelton Lock  
01332 700321

Hilton  
01283 732999

Stapenhill  
01283 568162

Langley Mill  
01773 304914

Mickleover  
01332 518585

Oakwood  
01332 666500