



WENSUM VALLEY VETS NEWSLETTER

Smallholders' Club

Our next Smallholder's Club meeting is a Quiz Night! It will be held at 7pm on 11th March at the clinic in Pudding Norton. The quiz will include fun questions on sheep, goats, pigs and all things smallholding! Light refreshments will be provided. Please call the office on 01328 864444 to confirm your place!



Blue Tongue Virus Update

As Bluetongue Virus (BTV) continues to impact the livestock industry, we would like to provide you with an update on recent changes to pre movement testing, a reminder of the signs to look out for and more information on the BTV vaccine.

Recent Changes to Movement Licenses

As of 10th February 2025, the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) has altered the specific licensing requirements for the movement of animals from restricted zones, based on the UK being in a current period of low transmission risk:

Movement to Markets

Animals originating from a restricted zone must obtain a specific licence (EXD632) before moving to a market. This includes mandatory Bluetongue testing with negative results **in the 21 days** prior to movement.



Upon leaving the market, compliance with general license EXD637 is required.

Movement to Designated Slaughterhouses

A general license (EXD630) has been issued for movements of animals from within a Bluetongue zone to a designated slaughterhouse for immediate slaughter during periods of low transmission risk.

Please ensure all necessary testing and documentation are completed before planning any animal movements. For the most current information and assistance with licensing, contact us or refer to the official guidelines on the APHA website.



Effects on calving and lambing

One of the more concerning aspects of BTV infection is its impact on pregnant animals. The virus can cause serious birth defects, including brain malformations, slowed growth, and deformities in newborn lambs and calves. Infection can lead to abortion, stillbirth or calves with reduced brain function being born.



Calves may seem dazed, 'moon gaze', or show ataxia/ wobbliness when trying to walk. As ever, all cattle abortions should be reported to the APHA who will make decisions regarding investigations and sampling.

Vaccination

Vaccination remains one of the most effective tools in controlling Bluetongue. Protecting your animals through vaccination reduces the risk of infection and is especially important for breeding stock, as the virus can have severe reproductive consequences (outlined above). If you have not yet arranged vaccinations for your livestock, we strongly recommend doing so as soon as possible. We are happy to discuss vaccine availability and scheduling with you.

We encourage all farmers to stay updated on BTV developments and take proactive steps to protect their livestock. If you have any questions about movement

restrictions, testing, or vaccination, please don't hesitate to reach out. Our team is here to help guide you through the process and ensure your animals stay healthy.

All information contained in this newsletter is correct as of 25/02/25

