



Welcome to our first newsletter of 2024! Congratulations are in order for Josh; firstly for gaining Advanced Veterinary Practitioner status in cattle (CertAVP(Cattle)) and secondly for taking on the role of Clinical Director at Endell Farm Vets, joining Sarah our Senior Practice Director. We are sure you will all join us in congratulating him!



Veterinary Attestation Numbers: Changes to key abattoir requirements

Any farm whose livestock may be exported to the EU, either as live animals or Products of Animal Origin (eg: meat) must declare they have regular veterinary visits. At least some portion of most carcasses is exported meaning that most farm businesses will need to ensure compliance.

What has changed?

- Previously, farmers could self-declare, but since 13 December 2023 the declaration has had to be signed by a vet.
- A regular veterinary visit means a vet has visited in the last twelve months.
- The veterinary declaration will contain a Veterinary Attestation Number (VAN) which is now required as part of the Food Chain Information (FCI) documentation.

Who requires a vet signed declaration?

- Farmers who already partake in an accreditation scheme (eg: Red Tractor) do not need to do anything extra; membership of the accreditation scheme is evidence enough of regular veterinary contact.
- However, everyone else who sends stock to an abattoir will need to have a declaration completed.

What are we doing?

- We have made the declaration a standard part of our health planning process for non-Red Tractor clients.
- This can be included as part of Animal Health and Welfare Pathway Review.
- The declaration must be renewed every twelve months.

What do you need to do?

- Please inform your vet, or phone the office if you require a declaration.
- Once you have your declaration, retain a copy of the completed declaration for your records.
- Your declaration will contain a unique Veterinary Attestation Number (VAN) which you will need to add to your Food Chain Information (FCI) documents when you send animals to the abattoir.



Heptavac P Plus

The economic impact of losses due to pasteurellosis and clostridial diseases can be devastating. Lamb deaths are only part of the loss. Even surviving lambs are liable to suffer long term losses in condition and weight. While they may look perfectly well, unseen damage to the lungs is common after pneumonia strikes and only becomes apparent when reduced performance leads to later or fewer finished lambs.

Heptavac P Plus is used for the active immunisation of sheep as an aid in the control of clostridial diseases and pasteurellosis in sheep. Following on from last year's difficulties with obtaining clostridial vaccines we are anticipating some supply issues again this year, particularly with the larger 125 and 250 dose pack sizes of Heptavac P Plus. Please contact us as soon as possible on 01722 333291 to secure your order.



Events and Courses

Responsible Use of Medicines

Online Course
Tuesday 13 February, 1-3pm
£25 incl VAT per person

Lambing/Kidding Workshop

Newtonwood Barns, GU34 3EW
Wednesday 21 February,
9.30am-12pm

or

Endell Equine Hospital, SP5 3DG
Wednesday 28 February,
6-8.30pm

£50 incl VAT per person (25% off
for Smallholder and Flock
Health Club Members).

AI Course

Salisbury
Thursday 29 February and
Friday 1 March, 9.30am-4.30pm
£450 incl VAT per person

If you would like to attend any
of these, please ring the office
to book your place (01722-
333291, option 1).

Bluetongue

There are now over 80 bluetongue cases in England on premises in Kent and Norfolk. To minimise the spread of disease, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) is placing 10km temporary control zones (TCZs) around premises with infected animals. Bluetongue affects sheep, cattle, other ruminants (eg: goats) and camelids. It does not affect people or food safety, but outbreaks can result in prolonged animal movement and trade restrictions. There is no evidence that bluetongue virus is currently circulating in midges in Great Britain, however surveillance is ongoing; please visit <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/bluetongue> for the most up to date information.

Signs of Bluetongue

Cattle

Signs of the disease in adult cattle include:

- Lethargy
- Crusty erosions around the nostrils and muzzle
- Redness of the mouth, eyes, nose
- Reddening of the skin above the hoof
- Nasal discharge
- Reddening and erosions on the teats
- Fever
- Milk drop
- Not eating
- Abortion, foetal deformities and stillbirths

Adult cattle may serve as a source of virus for several weeks while displaying little or no clinical signs of disease and are often the preferred host for insect vectors.

Calves can become infected with bluetongue before birth if the mother is infected while pregnant. Signs of infection in calves include:

- Calves born small, weak, deformed or blind
- Death of calves within a few days of birth
- Stillbirths

Sheep

Sheep are more likely to show obvious clinical signs of bluetongue than cattle if they become infected. Signs of bluetongue in adult sheep include:

- Ulcers or sores in the mouth and nose
- Discharge from the eyes or nose and drooling from mouth
- Swelling of the lips, tongue, head and neck and the coronary band (where the skin of the leg meets the horn of the foot)

Other clinical signs include red skin as a result of blood collecting beneath the surface, fever, lameness, breathing problems, abortion, foetal deformities and stillbirths, death

Lambs can become infected with bluetongue before birth if the dam is infected while pregnant. Signs of infection in lambs include:

- Lambs born small, weak, deformed or blind
- Death of lambs within a few days of birth
- Stillbirths

Livestock keepers and vets should consider bluetongue as a possible cause and report suspicion to the APHA immediately.

Preventing and controlling bluetongue

You can help to prevent the disease by:

- Responsibly source livestock
- Practising good biosecurity on your premises
- Remaining vigilant
- Consider how livestock housing could be modified to reduce midge populations – light sources and standing water can encourage populations to congregate
- Not allowing farm dogs, cats or pets to eat, chew on or play with potentially infected materials (such as aborted material and afterbirth)

There is no vaccine currently available to deal with BTV3, although development is underway.

Bluetongue is a notifiable animal disease so if you suspect it you must report it immediately by calling the Defra Rural Services Helpline on 03000 200 301. Failure to do so is an offence.

(source: www.gov.uk)

Bluetongue or Schmallenberg?

If you get lambs or calves that:

- are born small weak, deformed or blind
- are stillborn and deformed
- die within a few days

please contact us as soon as possible to rule out bluetongue. Schmallenberg can also cause these signs, as well as bovine viral diarrhoea or border disease in sheep. The APHA offers free testing for Schmallenberg, please call us to discuss.

DEFORMED LAMBS & CALVES

Bluetongue?
Schmallenberg?
Or something else?

We offer FREE Schmallenberg virus testing