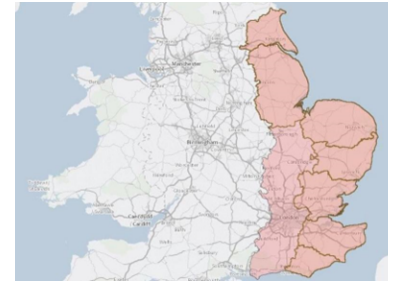




OCTOBER 2024

BLUETONGUE UPDATE

Bluetongue is a viral disease that affects sheep, cows, goats, deer and camelids (such as llamas and alpacas). The strain of Bluetongue causing problems in the UK now is BTV3. It is spread by biting midges and has been confirmed in some eastern counties and southern counties of the UK and North Yorkshire. BTV3 has been brought to these areas by wind-borne infected midges from Europe. The Restricted Zones in England have now been amalgamated. The temporary control zone is shown on this map, but is expanding frequently and movements from these areas are restricted. It is not advisable to buy in stock from high risk areas adjacent to the highlighted zone.



Blue tongue is a notifiable disease, if you suspect a case, you must report it to APHA. Wales: 03003 038268 England: 03000 200 301 If we, or an APHA vet suspect BTV, the farm will be placed under movement restrictions. If the case is then confirmed, compulsory culling may be considered in the early stages of an outbreak in the region. Once the virus is circulating in an area, compulsory slaughter will cease but movement restrictions will still apply.

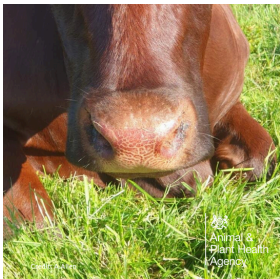
Signs in Cattle

(cattle often don't show signs of disease):

- Lethargy/Fever
- Reduced milk yield
- Lameness / pain in feet
- Mouth and muzzle lesions
- Conjunctivitis
- Reddening and ulceration of teats
- Abortion
- Small calves born (neurological defects)

Signs in Sheep:

- Depression
- Recumbency/lying down
- Lameness
- Salivation
- Crusting around nostrils
- Nasal discharge
- Ulcers in mouth/bleeding of lips
- Sometimes, swelling of lips, gums and muzzle (so won't very often have a swollen blue tongue)



Vaccination and Prevention

The government has just authorized the use of vaccines active against BTV serotype 3 in the UK (under certain conditions). These vaccines only reduce the clinical signs experienced, they do not prevent an animal becoming infected or infectious. BTV vaccines are unlikely to be available any time soon in Wales, but please contact us if you are interested in following this up. Use of insecticide as a prevention doesn't seem to help much. Housing animals at dawn and dusk when midges are most active can reduce the chances of infection. Virus development in midges can only occur when the temperature is above 12C so let's hope it cools off soon! For the latest information please visit: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/bluetongue-information-and-guidance-for-livestock-keepers>

Farm First Business Owners Reorganisation

After many years as the founding owner of Farm First Veterinary Services, Rob has decided to sell his shares in the business to Eleri Vaughan. He will still be taking an active part in running the business and retain his roles as Director and full time vet. We anticipate that this change will take place in the next month or so, and hope both Rob and Eleri will enjoy their altered roles within the company.

PRODUCT OF THE MONTH: ZOLVIX

A broad spectrum oral sheep wormer for gastrointestinal worms in sheep. Use in all age groups of sheep and lambs from 2 weeks old, including during pregnancy, and in rams during the breeding season. Use as a mid-to-late-season lamb dose and farm protection (quarantine) dose.



BOLIFAST PHYSIOLOGIC BOLUSES

We have been looking for an alternative product to Kexxtone to give to cows at risk of ketosis, LDAs and other post-calving health problems. We are now stocking Bolifast Physiologic Boluses which are rich in rumino-protected Choline, Methionine and bicarbonate in a rumen-protected form. This product is designed for over-fat animals before calving or when an animal has lost its appetite. A dose of BOLIFAST® PHYSIOLOGIC comprises of an effervescent bolus and a controlled-release bolus given at the same time. The nutritional bolus components are fully released in less than 24 hours after application. The dose can be repeated after two days if the appetite does not return satisfactorily. The cost of these boluses is significantly lower than Kexxtone, so we would advise giving them to cows at high-risk and moderately high-risk of metabolic issues around calving.

AGRIMIN BOLUSES



We are now able to offer Agrimin boluses at competitive prices. These high-quality products are available for all ages of cattle and sheep. We have access to a wide range, including 24-7 Smartrace, All-Trace, Rumbul, 24-7 Copper and Calcium boluses. The boluses are designed to deliver accurate quantities of trace elements over specific target periods of up to 6 months. Please contact us for a quote or if you would like to carry out some mineral deficiency testing to find out whether boluses would be beneficial.

USK SHOW

We had a fantastic day at Usk show in perfect weather. It was wonderful to welcome so many of you to our pitch and chat to you outside of the working day. We had a few competitions running that day:

- Guess the number of rings in the jar competition: Gary Groucott guessed closest to the actual number of 499 rings.
- Raffle Prizes were won by a number of clients and the raffle raised **£412 for the Wales Air Ambulance Charity**. Thank you to our generous suppliers who donated the prizes.
- Oliver Tranter won the £100 Agricultural Merchant voucher in the Arwain DGC prize draw.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday 11th October 10.30am-2.30pm: PRACTICAL CALVING - TIPS FOR CALVING A COW

Topics covered include:

- Normal stages of labour
- Normal/abnormal presentation
- If/when to intervene
- When to call the vet

The afternoon session will include a practical session with a calving simulator

At Monmouthshire Livestock Market, Abergavenny Road, Raglan NP15 2BH. £75pp. Sponsored by Kela. Please phone the office to book.

Thursday 17th October 10am-4pm: CATTLE BEHAVIOUR AND IMPROVING SAFETY AND HANDLING OF CATTLE ON FARM - on Farm Workshop with Miriam Parker MBE, Livestockwise Ltd.

Miriam Parker MBE brings her wealth of experience in practical livestock management and cattle handling to a free in-depth on-farm workshop.

At Clytha Farm Partnership, Cwm Farm, Bettws Newydd, Usk NP15 1JT. Sponsored by Farming Connect. Please phone the office to book.

Friday 18th October: RAM FERTILITY TESTING DAY - ADDITIONAL DATE

Please phone the office to book your rams in and benefit from 10% discount on this date.

Friday 25th October 9am-4pm: First Aid for Feet

A practical workshop with Eleri Davies BCVA Accredited Foot Health Trainer and Tom Vaughan CHCSB RAU Level 4 Fully Audited Professional Cattle Hoof Trimmer. Includes LANTRA Certificate of Competency. 80% Farming Connect funding available for eligible clients (Must apply before 1st October). Funded £60 +VAT Non-funded £300 +VAT

At Monmouthshire Livestock Market, Abergavenny Road, Raglan NP15 2BH. Please phone the office to book.

