



>>> FARM FIRST VETS NEWSLETTER <<<

NOVEMBER 2024



TETANUS IN CATTLE: SYMPTOMS, TREATMENT AND PREVENTION

Tetanus is a serious bacterial disease affecting cattle, often caused by Clostridia bacteria found in soil and organic matter. The infection typically occurs after a puncture wound or contaminated castration site allows these bacteria to enter the body. Once inside, the bacteria release toxins that attack the nervous system causing classic symptoms.

Symptoms in affected calves include:

- Hind limb stiffness and difficulty walking
- A “rocking horse” stance, with legs outstretched
- A startled appearance with bulging eyes, flared nostrils, and ears held back
- Lockjaw (inability to open the mouth) and mild bloat
- Raised tail head (in some cases)

If left untreated or if the disease progresses, severe cases may result in seizures and, ultimately, death.



Diagnosing and Distinguishing Tetanus

Diagnosis relies on observing these distinct signs. In cases where other diseases may be suspected, such as CCN, staggers, or lead poisoning, a postmortem can help confirm tetanus as the cause. Another form of tetanus, known as idiopathic tetanus, can develop when Clostridia present in the stomach multiply and produce toxins. This form is often linked to root crops contaminated with soil and is typically less severe with a better response to treatment.

Treatment Options and Challenges

While prognosis for tetanus is generally poor, some early cases respond to:

- High-dose antibiotics and pain relief
- Early administration of tetanus antitoxin
- Supportive care with fluids and warm, dry housing

Preventing Tetanus on Your Farm

Preventive vaccination is highly recommended, especially on farms with a history of clostridial diseases. Vaccines like Bravoxin 10 and Covexin 10 protect against multiple clostridial diseases, including tetanus and blackleg. The suggested vaccination protocol is:

1. Primary Course: Two doses 4–6 weeks apart, with full immunity developing after the second dose.
2. Booster: One dose 6–12 months after the initial course. To pass immunity to calves, cows should ideally be boosted 2–8 weeks before calving.

Good hygiene during castration and calving is also essential. Ensure that tools like rubber rings and applicators are always clean and dry. If you would like more information on tetanus or clostridial disease management, please contact the office on 01873 840167.

PRODUCT OF THE MONTH: SOLANTEL

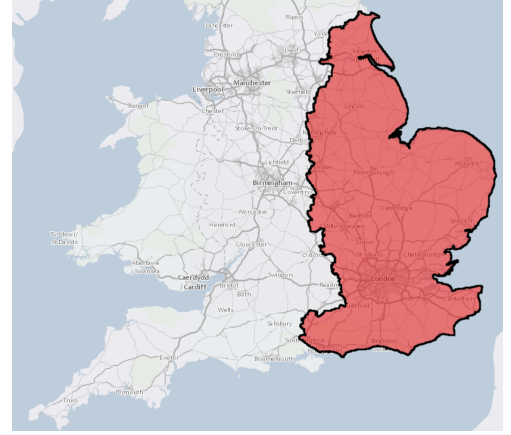
Solantel is effective against adult and late immature fluke, this includes triclabendazole resistant fluke and can also be used to treat haemonchus contortus. Solantel kills fluke from five weeks of age and the treatment will act against the inhibited, L4 and adult stages of J contortus and oestrus ovis. Solantel is recommended for use during the periods of winter and early spring.



BTV UPDATE

There are now 133 BTV-3 cases confirmed within the Restricted Zone in England. There have been 2 cases in Wales, Gwynedd and Anglesey, which were linked to moves from high-risk areas in the east of England. Restrictions have been lifted in the first of the BTV-3 cases in Wales, and further test results are awaited for the second case. With temperatures still quite mild, midges are present, and the risk of spread is ongoing. It is not advisable to buy any stock from areas adjacent to the highlighted area on the map.

**Be vigilant - Bluetongue is a notifiable disease. If you suspect a case, you must report it to APHA. Wales: 03003 038268
England: 03000 200 301.**



For the latest information please visit: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/bluetongue-information-and-guidance-for-livestock-keepers>



PLEASE REMEMBER TO ORDER ANY MEDICATION 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE

ALL REQUESTS FOR PRESCRIPTION ONLY MEDICATION MUST BE APPROVED BY A VET SO THIS WILL ENSURE YOUR ORDER IS READY FOR COLLECTION WHEN YOU ARRIVE.



CONGRATULATIONS PHOEBE



We are pleased to share that Phoebe Meadmore has passed her exams and is now a qualified Approved Tuberculin Tester (ATT). If you haven't met her already, you may see her at your next TB Test. Congratulations Phoebe!

BREAST CANCER FUNDRAISER

Thank you to everyone who supported our cake sale on 18th October and bought a cake in aid of Breast Cancer Now. We are pleased to share the new name of our office sheep, the name with the most votes was Lady Baa Baa.

The total raised for Breast Cancer Now was **£222** which will go towards helping to build a brighter future for everyone affected by breast cancer through research and support.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday 14th November 7pm: Sheep Parasite Control: Scab, Lice and Liver Fluke Workshop

Clients must be registered with Farming Connect. By attending the workshop, you will receive a LANTRA awards certificate of attendance.

At Monmouthshire Livestock Market, Abergavenny Road, Raglan NP15 2BH.

Please phone the office to book.

Thursday 5th December 7pm: Antibiotic Resistance More details to follow soon.

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

