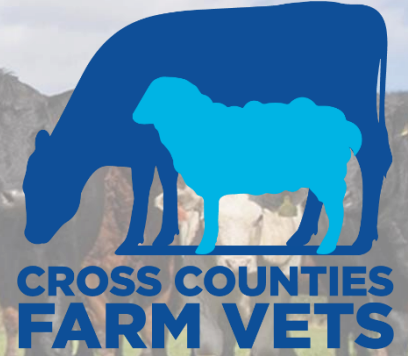


# SEPTEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

## Welcome



### CONGRATULATIONS MEL

Mel has achieved her Certificate in Advanced Veterinary Practice – Cattle. All of our vets have studied for at least 5 years at University to gain their Veterinary degree, in addition to this, some choose to undertake post-graduate qualifications. Mel has been working extremely hard over the past couple of years, around her busy work schedule, to complete the certificate. This is a big milestone in Mel's career. You may notice some very well-deserved extra letters after her name and the whole practice will benefit from her increased depth and breadth of knowledge in all topics related to cattle veterinary medicine.

### WELL DONE LAUREN

We are delighted that Lauren, our VetTech and ATT won a prestigious Nettie award in July. Nettie awards are offered by VetPartners to those colleagues who go above and beyond and represent the values of the practice and VetPartners.

Lauren was nominated by her colleagues to receive the award for her ongoing hard work, commitment to the practice and great attitude. We are sure you will all agree that she is a very deserving winner.



### MEET TERI



You may have heard a couple of new voices on the other end of the phone recently. Teri has been with us for a few weeks now, and is settling in well. We are sure it won't be long before she gets to know all of our clients. Please join us in giving her a warm welcome.

Why did the cow jump over the moon?

Because the farmer had cold hands!

### Toxovax Vaccine Reminder

A reminder to all to get your Toxovax orders placed if you have not already! It has a 2 week lead time, and only a weeks shelf life. This means planning ahead is key!

### Upcoming Meetings

#### Flock Club Meeting

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September, 7pm for a 7:30pm start. The meeting will discuss the management of thin ewes, at the Olde Royal Oak at Bitteswell. Non-members are welcome.

#### Smallholder Club Meeting

This will be a practical session, details soon to follow!

#### Beef Club Meeting

Coming in October!

### **Animal Health and Welfare Pathway**

Another reminder to anyone with 11 or more cattle, 21 or more sheep or 51 or more pigs to get signed up and unlock funding. The money goes towards an animal health and welfare review from your vet and endemic disease testing and advice.



# Bluetongue

Towards the end of August, a new case of Bluetongue Virus (BTV-3) was confirmed in a single sheep in South Norfolk. Since then, 41 animals have been diagnosed over 13 premises in Norfolk and Suffolk and one has been identified in Yorkshire. The Restricted Zone and Infected Area has been extended to cover Essex and a Temporary Control Zone surrounds the case in Yorkshire.

## How is BTV-3 spread?

- Culicoides species of biting midges – this is the most common source of infection
  - Infected midges are blown across from mainland Europe which then bite and infect susceptible hosts, which in turn infect the native population of midges.
- Movement of infected animals and animal products, within Great Britain or from outside, through imports
- Infected pregnant animals transmitting the virus to their young

## Clinical Signs

Sheep are more likely to show obvious clinical signs of bluetongue than cattle. Adult cattle may be infectious for several weeks while showing little or no sign of disease

Signs of bluetongue in 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 because of blood collecting beneath the surface
- fever
- lameness
- breathing problems
- abortion, foetal deformities and stillbirths
- death

Signs of bluetongue in 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

If you suspect bluetongue, you must report it immediately by calling 03000 200 301 in England as it is a notifiable disease.

## How to reduce the risk of BTV-3:

You can help to prevent bluetongue virus from spreading by:

- responsibly sourcing livestock, especially if importing from Europe
- remaining vigilant to signs of disease
- maintaining good hygiene and biosecurity on your premises
- not allowing farm dogs, cats or pets to eat, chew on or play with potentially infected materials (such as aborted material and afterbirth)

### Cross Counties Farm Vets

**Lutterworth Branch:** Elizabethan House, Lutterworth, Leicestershire, LE17 4NJ. ☎ 01455 552117

**Welford Branch:** Elkington Lodge, Elkington Road, Welford, Northampton, NN6 6HE. ☎ 01455 710935

**Broughton Astley Branch:** 12 Swannington Road, Broughton Astley, Leicestershire, LE9 6TU. ☎ 01455 282512

**Email:** [office@ccfarmvets.co.uk](mailto:office@ccfarmvets.co.uk) **Website:** [www.ccfarmvets.co.uk](http://www.ccfarmvets.co.uk) **Facebook:** Cross Counties Farm Vets

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