

# February 2025 NEWSLETTER

## Welcome



### CASE OF FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN GERMANY

FMD is a highly contagious viral disease of cattle, sheep, pigs and other cloven-hoofed animals. Cattle with FMD may develop sores and blisters, and have a fever, shivering, lameness and may produce less milk. Sheep and pigs rarely develop blisters, and lameness is the main sign of the disease. It causes significant economic losses, due to reduced production in the affected animals and export restrictions imposed on live animals and animal products such as meat and milk for affected countries. FMD does not pose a food safety risk and does not affect humans.

FMD was confirmed in a 14-head herd of water buffalo in the state of Brandenburg on 10 January 2025. The first outbreak in the country for nearly 40 years.

### WHAT DOES THAT MEAN FOR THE UK

The UK Government announced on Tuesday 14 January it was stepping up measures to prevent the spread of FMD:


The UK has suspended imports of the following commodities from FMD-susceptible animals from the whole territory of Germany:

- Live ungulates
- Ruminant and porcine germplasm
- Fresh meat of ungulates
- Meat products that have not been subject to at least heat treatment D1.
- Raw and pasteurised milk and milk products (including colostrum)

The UK Chief Veterinary Officer is urging livestock keepers to remain vigilant and to monitor for the clinical signs of FMD following the confirmed case of the disease in Germany. There are no cases in the UK currently.

Foot-and-mouth disease is a notifiable animal disease. If you suspect disease on your farm, you must report it immediately by calling the Defra Rural Services Helpline on 03000 200 301.

### What advice does Fleetwood Mac give for the keeping of farm animals?

 You can grow your own hay!

### VetPartners Charity Donation

Through VetPartners charity match scheme, both RABI and The Brains Trust have received an extra donation of £366 each. This brings the total donated to each charity from our Christmas quiz to £1962. We look forward to the same success next year!

### Are you prepared for lambing?

FREE  
FARMERS  
SHEEP TALK

Tuesday 25th February 2025  
at 6pm via Zoom

#### Find out...

- How and when to use oral fluid therapy
- How to manage twin-lamb disease and hypocalcaemia
- How to give your lambs the best start



To register please email Katie Pearson at [pearson.k@nimrodvet.co.uk](mailto:pearson.k@nimrodvet.co.uk) including your name and registered vet practice. Vets are welcome to join.

Everyone who attends will be entered into a prize draw to win a SELEKT lambing essentials bundle.



Contact [pearson.k@nimrodvet.co.uk](mailto:pearson.k@nimrodvet.co.uk) to register!

### Farm Support Team

Please join us in welcoming Hollie and Stephanie to the farm support team. You may have already seen or spoken to them over the last month or so!

# Blue Tongue Update

Restrictions put in place to prevent the spread of bluetongue have been eased. Due to the drop in temperature and reduced midge activity, the UK's Chief Veterinary Officer has confirmed the UK is now in the seasonally vector low period for bluetongue virus. This came into effect from 12 noon on the 21<sup>st</sup> of January. The government has confirmed that the RZ currently in place across affected regions along the east and south coast of England will remain.

## You no longer require:

- post-movement testing for animals moved out of the zone - provided they have a valid negative pre-movement test result
- vector control including the use of insecticide
- animals originating from the restricted zone to be slaughtered at a designated slaughterhouse

## You must still:

- have a licence to move animals or germinal product out of a restricted zone
- arrange for a pre-movement test via UK Farmcare for all animals moving out of the restricted zone unless they are moving direct to slaughter or via a dedicated slaughter market
- comply with any post-movement testing requirements set out in your licence or restriction notice if you moved animals out of the restricted zone on or before 20 January 2025
- apply for a licence to freeze germinal products within the restricted zone

However, there has been a confirmed case identified in Kent on the 7<sup>th</sup> of February 2025 following active surveillance, both BTV-3 and BTV-12 were found. This highlights the importance of remaining vigilant and reporting any suspicion of disease. As we enter spring, we anticipate cases of bluetongue to increase alongside increased midge activity, whilst we can't predict the disease spread and severity, we encourage you to consider vaccination ahead of this higher risk period, particularly for your sheep. Based on information from the outbreaks experienced on the continent and on affected UK farms, of the sheep that develop clinical signs up to 70% of these do not survive. Vaccination has been shown in Germany to reduce the number of animals dying from disease; however it will not stop them developing disease. Please call the practice to discuss vaccination options further.

## Importance of owning a thermometer

A thermometer is an extremely useful and inexpensive piece of equipment for livestock keepers. Rectal temperature is a useful indicator for determining health and can be an early warning sign of disease. Early detection and identification of sick animals can help to prevent the spread of infectious diseases, reduce treatment cost by improving response to treatment and minimise losses. Being able to assess an animal's temperature can help in determining the need for treatment and veterinary intervention as well as monitoring response to treatment.

To obtain an accurate rectal temperature the tip of the thermometer should be held directly against the rectal wall, otherwise you may get a falsely low result or take the temperature of the faeces.

The normal parameters: **Ewes:** 38.4-39.5°C, **Lambs:** 38.5-40°C, **Cattle:** 38.0-39.1°C,

**Pigs:** 38.5-39°C **Goats:** 39.0-39.5°C, **Alpaca:** 38.0-38.9°C



### 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 **Website:** [www.ccfarmvets.co.uk](http://www.ccfarmvets.co.uk) **Facebook:** Cross Counties Farm Vets

Broughton Vet Group Ltd trading as Cross Counties Farm Vets. Company number 9243007 registered in England & Wales. Registered office: Spitfire House, Aviator Court, York, YO30 4UZ