

March 2025 NEWSLETTER Welcome

SUSTAINABLE FLY CONTROL

Do you house stock indoors through the summer? Do your cows bring flies into the milking parlour? Before we know it, fly season will be upon us. There are several different methods you can implement on your farm to minimise the presence and effect of flies.

FLY TRAPS

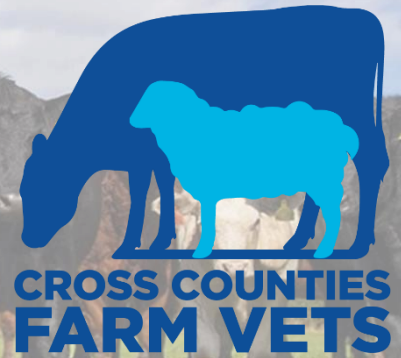
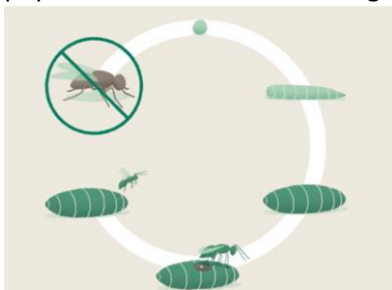
- Baited buckets used to trap adult flies during the summer months, activated by sunlight.
- Reusable buckets, bait requires replenishing after 8-10 weeks.
- Ideal to use along cow tracks, to deter flies whilst cows are walking to the parlour.
- Can be used around the perimeter problematic areas, such as paddocks with marshy areas or streams.
- Should be placed away from livestock and muck heaps and raised off the ground.

BIOWASP

- A parasitic mini wasp which controls flies in and around livestock units without the use of insecticides and chemical.
- Naturally controls flies by targeting fly pupae in and around farm buildings with straw bedding or where dry manure is present.
- Perfect to use in calf sheds, or any buildings where stock are housed year-round.
- Application offered through our Vet Tech service, every 2 weeks.

HOW BIOWASP WORKS

- They drill a small hole inside the pupae of a nuisance fly and lay their eggs.
- The eggs develop into a mini wasp larvae, which will feed on the contents of the fly pupa.
- A new mini wasp will grow inside the fly pupa about 3 weeks after parasitisation.
- Once a fly pupa has been parasitised, only mini wasps can hatch from it, breaking the life cycle of the fly whilst increasing the population of the beneficial organisms



Huskvac is available!

The current batch has an expiry date of 08/04/2025 and will be available to order until 01/04/2025.

Get in touch to place your order.

SELECT[®]

RE-EWE-VENATE[™]
For recuperation from twin-lamb disease

NEW!

- ✓ MORE GLUCOSE PRECURSORS
- ✓ CALCIUM PROPIONATE
- ✓ BIOTIN & VIT B12
- ✓ POTASSIUM

NOW AVAILABLE FROM

CROSS COUNTIES FARM VETS

Bluetongue Vaccine

Please see our Facebook Page for more information about whether or not to vaccinate your livestock against Bluetongue ahead of predicted spread during the warmer months of spring and summer 2025.

What do you call a cow that has just given birth?

De-calf-inated!

UPDATE: Animal Health and Welfare Review

You can now apply for the Animal Health and Welfare Review for more than **one** species. That means if you've already had your review for dairy, you can now apply for your beef and sheep (and vice versa!) Additionally, if it's been over a year since your first review, you can apply for your second. There's up to 3 reviews and 3 follow-ups per species available for the duration of the scheme.

Follow up funding			Review funding		
	Cattle (no BVD)	£215		Dairy	£372 To include BVD testing
	Beef (BVD present)	£837		Beef	£522 To include BVD testing
	Dairy (BVD present)	£1714		Sheep	£436 To include worm egg count sampling
	Sheep	£639		Pigs	£684 To include PRRS testing
	Pigs	£923			

Remember you have 6 months to complete the review from registering. Therefore, please speak to your vet before registering to ensure the timing works for your testing – this saves duplication!

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/funding-to-improve-animal-health-and-welfare-guidance-for-farmers-and-vets>

Bull Breeding Soundness Exam

Bulls are responsible for 50% of your herds fertility but they are often overlooked. A fully fertile bull running with a group of 40-50 cycling, disease free cows should be expected to achieve pregnancy rates of 90% over a 9-10 week mating period. However, while completely infertile bulls are rare, studies have shown that 20% or more of unselected breeding bulls are sub-fertile. This means fewer cows are taking longer to get in calf, which will reduce your profitability.

What is assessed during the exam?

- History and health status of the bull
 - recent clinical illness, lameness or change in BCS, vaccination history.
- General physical exam of the bull
 - Assessment of his BCS, conformation and locomotion
- Examination of the reproductive tract
 - Assessment of the prepuce and penis, the size and tone of the testes and internal sex glands via rectal palpation.
- Collection of the semen sample using the electro-ejaculator
 - Assessment of sperm density and volume, motility and morphology.

Bulls should be tested 4-6 weeks prior to the breeding season so if you are interested in having a BBSE carried out, please give the Welford office a call to book in.

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