

# November 2025 NEWSLETTER



## Welcome

### ANNUAL CHRISTMAS QUIZ

We will be hosting our annual Christmas quiz in memory of Tom again this year, we hope you can join us for what is a fun-filled evening. It is a good opportunity for everyone to come together for a social and to raise some funds for some fantastic causes.

This year we will be supporting FCN and Macmillan. Alongside the quiz we will have a silent auction, raffle and of course the hog roast!

**Where:** Lutterworth Rugby Club

**When:** Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December

**From:** 7 pm

Tickets are £15 per person, please contact the practice to book these.

We look forward to seeing you all there.

Any donations to the raffle or silent auction will be gratefully received.



## Avian Influenza

Due to a rising number of cases of Avian Influenza in both wild birds and captive poultry APHA has announced a Bird Flu Housing covering the north, central and parts of east of England to mitigate the risk of further outbreaks of the disease.

Among many others the locally affected counties include **Leicestershire and Rutland.**

These measures apply to anyone with more than 50 birds of any species as well as anyone who gives away or sells eggs or any other poultry products.

This housing order came into effect from the 30<sup>th</sup> of October 2025.

For further information please see the APHA press release: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/housing-measures-introduced-to-protect-poultry-and-other-captive-birds>

### Beef Club Meeting

Our next beef club meeting is being held on the 27<sup>th</sup> of November at 12:30pm.

This meeting will be held on farm and discussing lameness, mobility scoring and foot trimming. Lunch will be provided.

Please contact the office for more information or to book

### Flock Club Meeting


Our next flock club meeting is on the 25<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at ... pm. The meeting will be held at our Welford Branch.

This meeting is for flock club members only and will be looking into benchmarking some key performance indicators.

Food...

### Team Update

We are thrilled to welcome Izzy to our admin team here at Welford. You will soon hear Izzy on the end of the phone if you haven't already!



## BOVINE VIRAL DIARRHOEA VIRUS (BVD):

BVD has been estimated to cost between 13 and 31 pounds per cow per year in the UK. With roughly 7.5 million cattle present in Great Britain as of January 2025 this is a potential total cost of between 97.5 and 232.5 million per year. This puts BVD as one of the biggest costs to cattle farmers across the UK.

### WHAT IS IT?

BVD is a viral disease which can be spread via nasal discharge, saliva, semen, urine, faeces and through the placenta to unborn calves.

Clinical signs include:

- Reduced immunity increasing the risk of secondary infections
- Lethargy or depression
- Diarrhoea
- Reduced productivity, e.g milk yield
- Reduced fertility
- Abortion / weak and premature calves
- Birth defects, particularly to eyes and nervous system

Whilst adult cattle infected with BVD typically recover and develop immunity, the disease can threaten their unborn calf. If they are infected during the first 120 days of gestation, the disease passes across the placenta to the calf which becomes persistently infected. This means that the calf's immune system will never mount a response to the BVD virus, allowing it to multiply and be shed by the calf in extremely high levels. A PI calf will become a reservoir and the main source of infection for the herd, and any in-contact cattle. Infection and fighting infection often lead to a general decrease in immunity of other animals in their group and a much higher rate of other secondary infections such as pneumonia.

### IS IT ON MY FARM?

Whilst without testing there is no way to tell if BVD is present on a farm there is funding available through the Animal Health and Welfare Review. Only 5 samples are needed per management group of 9-18 month old calves or on bulk milk sample. Tag and testing of all calves born can also be utilised to assess your herd status.

### WHAT NEXT?

BVD can be eradicated with testing, strategic culling of any PI animal and biosecurity measures to prevent any re-introduction of disease. Biosecurity measures such as ensuring there is a minimum 2m gap at any boundaries, care with visitor access to livestock areas and careful sourcing of any replacement are important. A discussion with one of our vets around testing and control measures is important as each farm will have individual risk factors and disease status. This discussion can be funded by the Animal Health and Welfare Pathway. It is strongly advised to get on board with BVD control now as mandatory control is likely to be implemented from 2027.

**Cross Counties Farm Vets** 📞 01455 710935

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

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

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

**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