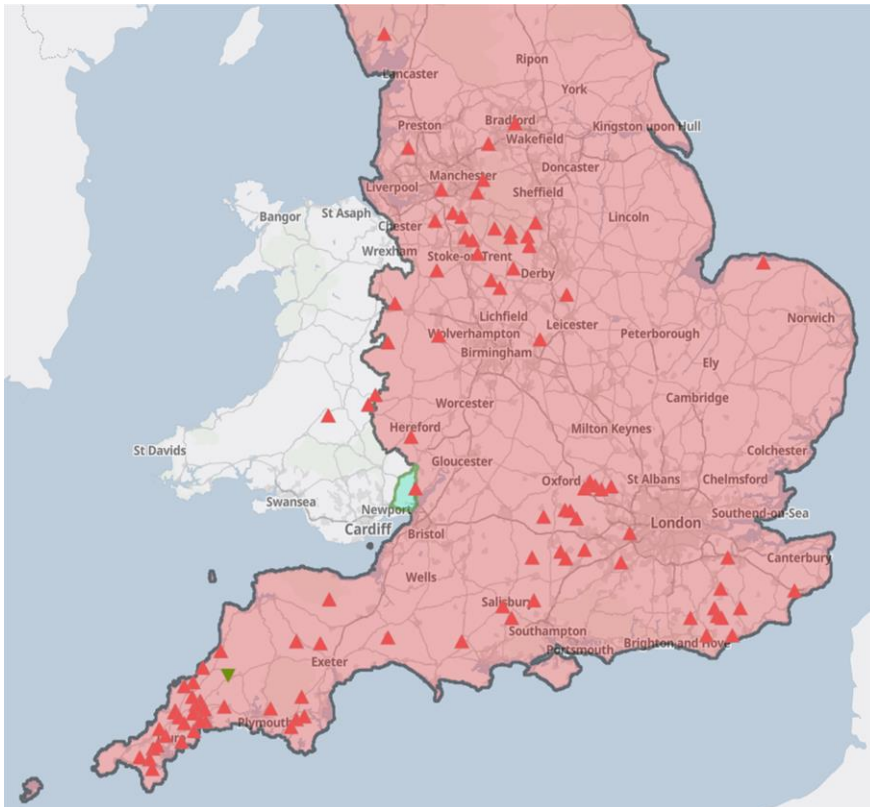


October 2025 NEWSLETTER

Welcome



Blue Tongue Confirmed in Leicestershire



Map showing the location of cases since Aug2024 taken from APHA

Over the past few weeks there have been several cases of Blue Tongue confirmed in Derbyshire and one in a cow in Leicestershire. Since July 2025 September alone there have been a total of 95 cases in England and Wales.

You can help to prevent bluetongue virus from spreading by:

- responsibly sourcing livestock
- remaining vigilant to signs of disease
- housing animals in buildings that keep out biting midges – this is especially important at dawn and dusk
- 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)
- vaccinating your animals with a suitable authorised vaccine

SAVE THE DATE

The next Beef Club Meeting will be held on Wednesday 22nd October at the practice in Welford. The talk will be about Mycoplasma and is kindly sponsored by Zoetis. Dinner will be included.

Smallholder Meeting



Despite a last-minute closure of the original pub location, we had an interesting talk about lameness delivered by Kela and CCFV's James Barker on 23rd September at the practice. It was enjoyed by all – both the presentation and the fish and chips!

CONGRATULATIONS!

To Gina and Allan on the safe arrival of beautiful baby Hector. We are all thrilled and cannot wait to meet him!

What did the evil sheep want to do?



Acorn Toxicity

Watch Out for Acorns: Increased Risk of Acorn Toxicity This Year

The recent storms and the "mast year" phenomenon have brought an abundance of acorns to the ground, creating an unexpected challenge for livestock owners, heightening the risk of acorn toxicity.

What Makes Acorns Toxic?

Acorns contain high levels of tannins, present in varying concentrations depending on the maturity of the acorn, with green, immature acorns being far more toxic than their mature counterparts. For some animals, the ingestion of acorns can lead to liver and kidney failure, with devastating outcomes.



Which Animals Are Affected by Acorn Toxicity?

Acorns are toxic to all animals, but the effects are particularly severe in cattle and sheep. Livestock, such as horses and goats, can also be affected, albeit to a lesser extent. Even small quantities of acorns can be dangerous to certain animals, particularly when consumed over several days.

Symptoms of Acorn Toxicity

The symptoms of acorn toxicity can be subtle at first but tend to progress rapidly. Early warning signs include:

- **Dullness and lethargy:** Affected animals may appear unusually tired or withdrawn.
- **Loss of appetite:** Animals may stop eating or show little interest in food.
- **Abdominal pain or bloating:** This can result in discomfort and visible signs of distress, such as rolling or pawing at the abdomen.
- **Constipation or digestive issues:** Animals may have difficulty passing manure or may develop a blockage.
- **Dark or black diarrhoea (scour):** This is a hallmark symptom of acorn toxicity, indicative of gastrointestinal distress and internal bleeding.
- **Sudden death:** In severe cases, acorn toxicity can lead to acute liver or kidney failure, which may cause sudden death in affected animals.

Preventing Acorn Toxicity

Fence Off Oak Trees or Remove Acorns from High-Traffic Areas: To limit contact between livestock and acorns

Provide Supplemental Feed: With the scarcity of grass in some regions, animals may be more inclined to eat acorns as a source of food. Providing adequate supplemental feed, such as hay or grain, can help reduce the temptation to forage on acorns.

Monitor Animal Behaviour: Keep a close eye on your livestock's behaviour and health during this time of year. If you notice any signs of illness or distress, contact us immediately for advice and treatment.

Reduce Stress: Animals that are stressed due to environmental factors, such as lack of food or water, are more likely to eat acorns. Ensuring that your livestock have access to clean water and are not under undue stress can help reduce the risk of acorn consumption.

She wanted to wool the world!

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