

01455 710935

SEPTEMBER 2026 Newsletter



Get Your Ewes Topping-Ready: Time for an Ewe MOT!

With topping just around the corner, now is the perfect time to give your ewes an MOT to make sure they're in the best possible shape for breeding.

Ideally, ewes and rams should be assessed 8-10 weeks before topping. A few key checks now can help improve scanning results and lambing performance:

- **Body condition score (BCS):** Aim for ewes to be a score 3–3.5 out of 5 at topping. Identify thin or over-fat ewes early so you have time to adjust nutrition.
- **Nutrition:** Ewes below target condition will benefit from better grazing and/or supplementary feed. Avoid overfeeding animals already in good condition. Check mineral levels (copper, selenium, cobalt/Vit B12 and iodine) with a pre-breeding blood test.
- **Feet:** Check for lameness and foot problems, providing treatment as required. Ensure ewes have made a full recovery before topping and consider culling those that haven't responded to treatment.
- **Teeth:** Identify broken or worn teeth and consider whether older ewes should remain in the breeding flock.
- **Udder:** Check for mastitis, hard udders or damaged teats. Poor udders can have a significant impact on lamb survival.
- **Vaccinations & parasites:** Make sure vaccination programmes are up to date and use targeted parasite treatments where needed. Worm egg counts can be performed to guide the requirement for treatment.

A little preparation now can go a long way towards a successful topping and lambing season. If you have concerns about ram fertility, ewe condition, lameness, abortion risk or your pre-topping health plan, speak to the practice team and we can help you get your flock ready.



Email Invoicing

A reminder that we have moved to sending our invoices by email. If you have not received an invoice from us over the past couple months, please get in touch so we can resolve any teething problems.

FLOCK CLUB MEETING

Sheep Fertility and
Breeding Programmes

Discussion led by independent expert
David Charles

Tuesday 22nd September 2026
6pm start



Kindly hosted by Ben Moreton
and Roy Turner in Willey.

Sponsored by Zoetis.

A hot dinner will be provided.
Non-members £20 + VAT



Please contact us to book your place
and for the full address of the location.



01455710935

office@ccfarmvets.co.uk

A massive congratulations to Jessica
for raising a grand total of £1199.06
for the World's Land Trust for
running the London Landmarks Half
Marathon in April.





Mandatory BVD Control in 2027

In 2027, England is set to introduce a mandatory bovine viral diarrhoea virus (BVD) control programme. The aim is to eradicate the disease. We believe this is a positive step to improve welfare, reduce cattle health issues and the cost to the industry. Despite the voluntary schemes in place England has lagged behind Scotland, Wales and the rest of Europe in its BVD control.

Reasons for mandatory control:

1. **Animal Health:** BVD is easily spread by infected animals and can enter a herd through animal contact, animals attending shows, bought-in animals, visitors and shared equipment.
2. **Economic impact:** Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) Virus is one of the most prevalent and economically important diseases in cattle. The reproductive and immunosuppressive impacts of BVD are estimated to cost 14 to 36 million pounds per year.
3. **Ease of trade:** Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland already have mandatory BVD eradication programs. England's adoption ensures a unified approach across the UK, facilitating cattle movement and trade.



What will control look like?

The final plan is still undergoing consultation and the exact details will be confirmed by the government soon. However, it is anticipated to consist of the following aspects:

- Knowing your BVD status and continued disease monitoring by performing annual mandatory BVD testing:
 - Tag and testing all calves born
 - OR an annual antibody screen with blood or milk testing.
- Sharing your test results (this will be done by the lab or vet).
- Individual animal and herd status to be displayed at point of sale (second year onwards).
- Restricting movements of infected animals.
- Annual biosecurity assessment and plan. This would be developed in partnership with a vet

If a herd tests positive then a PI (persistently infected) hunt will be required to establish the status of individual cows within 30 days of the positive result. Additionally, all calves would need to be tag and tested until the farm has had 12 months without any PI's being found. Movement restrictions will be implemented until the PI hunt is completed and any PI animals are removed. PI animals may only move directly to slaughter or be euthanased on farm.

Exemptions are likely to be available for smallholders and non-breeding herds.

We would recommend discussing your herds BVD control with one of our vets and performing testing prior to these changes becoming mandatory. There is currently funding available via the animal health and welfare pathway to perform BVD testing and a PI hunt if required. This funding is likely to end this year and therefore we would recommend making the most of the opportunity and funding available whilst you can.

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 Website: www.ccfarmvets.co.uk

Facebook/Instagram: 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