

Half way through the year already! For once there is no lack of grass and the more settled weather has brought out the mowers.

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### BLUETONGUE

As many of you will have read in the farming press, Bluetongue 8 is currently circulating in France. Bluetongue is a **NOTIFIABLE DISEASE** of ruminants (cattle, sheep, goats, deer, alpaca and llamas). It is caused by a virus transmitted by biting midges, which are most active between May and October. At present the UK is most likely to be at risk of an outbreak in late summer, especially in the South and South East.

We had a number of farms affected by Bluetongue in the last outbreak. There were a number of deformed lambs and calves born as well as a lack of vigour in lambs.

#### *CLINICAL SIGNS*

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| <p>In sheep:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lethargy, reluctance to move</li><li>• Crusty erosions around the nostrils and on the muzzle</li><li>• Discharge of mucus and drooling from mouth and nose</li><li>• Swelling of the muzzle, face and above the hoof</li><li>• Reddening of the skin above the hoof</li><li>• Redness of the mouth, eyes, nose</li><li>• Fever</li><li>• Lameness</li><li>• Breathing problems</li><li>• Erosions on the teats</li></ul> | <p>In cattle:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lethargy</li><li>• Crusty erosions around the nostrils and muzzle</li><li>• Redness of the mouth, eyes, nose</li><li>• Reddening of the skin above the hoof</li><li>• Nasal discharge</li><li>• Reddening and erosions on the teats</li></ul> <p>Cattle do not often show clear signs of disease so owners should also look out for signs of fatigue and lower productivity including reduced milk yield</p> |
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Over the coming months it will be important to monitor stock carefully for clinical signs of the disease. Vaccination will protect your livestock from Bluetongue but we are yet to be notified of the availability of vaccine. Further information is available on the NFU website and the JAB campaign.

Contact the surgery if you have any further questions.

## BVD FREE ENGLAND

BVD Free England was launched on 1<sup>st</sup> July. BVD is viral disease of cattle which costs the beef industry about £60 million a year. It is estimated that 90% of herds have had exposure to the virus. It has two main effects on the productivity of a herd – poor fertility and immunosuppressive effects on the young stock often causing increases in pneumonia and scours.

The aim is to eradicate BVD from the national herd in England by 2022. The scheme will be voluntary for at least 2 years but may become compulsory, following suit with Scotland and Ireland. Wales will soon follow, no doubt.

We have promoted BVD testing and vaccination for many years and will be holding a meeting in the autumn to discuss further. Watch out for further details.



## SHEEP MEETING – *PRE-TUPPING M.O.T OF RAMS & EWES*

The sheep breeding calendar starts approximately 2 months before the rams are put out with the ewes. Ensuring ewes and rams are in optimal condition at tupping will help to maximise the scanning percentage, healthy lambs are born and overall productivity and profitability of the flock.

We are holding an **on farm meeting** on the pre-tupping management of rams and ewes. This will be a “hands-on” practical night showing you how to examine rams testicles and what defects may indicate a problem with fertility. We will also be demonstrating semen testing using an electro ejaculator. We will also be discussing abortion vaccination, manipulation of sheep breeding eg. Sponges + PMSG and regulin and other pre-tupping checks.

***Date: Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> August***

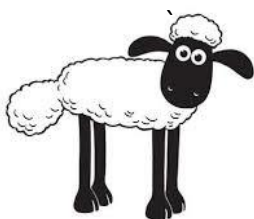
***Place: Whitewall Farm, Presteigne, Powys      by kind permission of Mr Dave Rogers & Family***

***Time: 6pm***

***Refreshments provided.***

Please contact the surgery or one of the vets if you would like to come so that we have numbers for catering.

There will be a 10% discount on the fertility testing of rams for anyone coming on the night.



Come prepared to get down on your knees and have a feel!!

*The Arrowfield Team*