

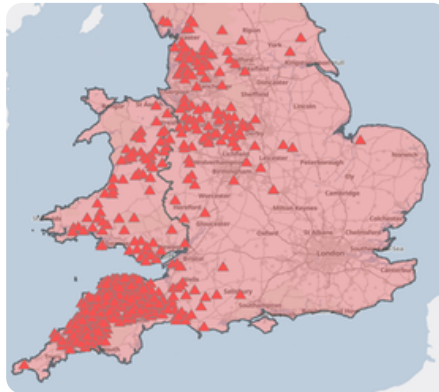
A bluetongue update

September 26

Bluetongue is the current talk of the market on farm and it is even making an appearance during conversations at the pub. We are working to our best capacity to roll out as much vaccine as possible so please do bear with us. If you do decide to vaccinate, please ring dispensary to get on the list! Hopefully this newsletter will give you an update and outline the current situation.

CASES

- As of 26th August 2026 there have been the following cases reported (at least 1 bluetongue positive animal on a premises)
 - England – 587
 - Wales - 34
 - Scotland - 9
- Individual animals
 - 1083 sheep
 - 259 cattle
 - 5 alpacas
 - 1 llama



All of these cases are BTV-3 (the strain we have vaccine for). There have been no cases of bluetongue serotype 8 (BTV-8) in the 2026 season.

TRANSMISSION

- Transmission is expected to peak mid/late September
 - Still time to vaccinate
- High temperatures have accelerated the speed that the virus incubates inside the midge
 - 20 day replication cycle at 15-20 degrees --> down to a 4 day replication cycle at 30-35 degrees

CLINICAL SIGNS

Sheep

- Fever 40-42 degrees
- Reduced appetite
- Reddening of conjunctiva and increased tear fluid
- Red nasal and oral mucosa
- Facial oedema
- Clear and stringy (not frothy) salivation, muco purulent nasal discharge
- Resp distress
- Stiff, uncomfortable gait
- Swelling/reddening of coronary band, painful on palp and can bleed
- Reduced production, wool slip, weight loss

VACCINATION

We are working extremely hard to source enough vaccine to ensure that all stock can be vaccinated. Currently there are 3 vaccines that we are able to source. Currently the doses, courses and booster schedules varies between the three. Below is a summary of the vaccines on the market- the stock of each vaccine is variable depending on what can be sourced.

VACCINE	DOSE	ROUTE	PRIMARY COURSE	BOOSTER
Bultavo 3	1ml	SC	One injection from 1 month old	Not established (yearly)
Syvazul 3	2ml	SC	One injection from 3 months old	6 months
Bluevac 3	2ml	SC	Two, three weeks apart from 2 months old	Not established

WHAT TO DO

Bluetongue is a notifiable disease so, if you suspect it, you **MUST** report it. A phone call to us to book a vet visit and a call to APHA is required to obtain government authorisation for testing. The government will fund testing of 3 animals on your holding - note: they do not cover the vet visit or time.

MYTHBUSTING

MYTH: Bluetongue vaccine will cause infertility in cattle and sheep

- **FACT:** There is no link to the vaccine and reduced fertility

MYTH: Use of repellents and insecticides reduces BTV transmission

- **FACT:** There is **NO** evidence of repellents and insecticides reducing BTV transmission, you also **CANNOT** see the midges

If you have any queries regarding vaccination or concerns about bluetongue give us a call.



Hannah