

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Bluetongue Update

Eleanor Legg BVM&S MRCVS



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The unprecedented hot, dry weather in England appears to have had the benefit of limiting BTV infection cases, as there are less midges surviving to spread the virus. There have been considerably less cases than last year which was not the expected picture, just 8 cases up to the 3rd August.

Thankfully, the case in Cumbria remains just a single animal identified on a premovement test. We have heard anecdotally that there have been movements from the RZ into Scotland without following the requirements to testing that the APHA are investigating. This means there is still a real risk to Scottish livestock for now, especially until the end of the High Vector Season.

It is expected that this will end on 21st September, based on weather modelling from previous years but since this summer has broken many records, we shouldn't be relaxing prematurely.

Bluetongue remains a serious disease. If you want to talk over the current situation, try the Battle Bluetongue website or give us a call.

**You can protect your
livestock against BTV
infection with
vaccination.**

Cattle need two injections for the primary course, sheep just one. The vaccines are new, so revaccination is not established for all options, but will likely be an annual booster.

There are decision maker tools here:

<https://ruminanthw.org.uk/bluetongue-virus-hub>
including tools about which of your stock you should vaccinate and a cost benefit calculator.

Give us a call if you want to discuss the vaccine!



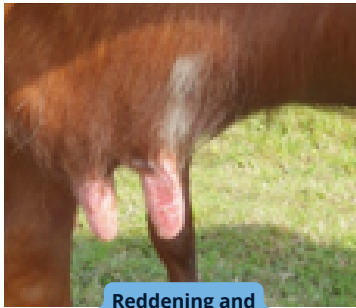


Bluetongue Signs in Cattle

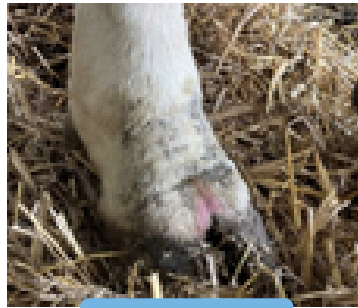
Clinical signs to look out for in cattle:

- lethargy
- crusting and erosions around the nostrils and muzzle
- conjunctivitis and excessive tear staining
- redness of the mouth, eyes, nose
- reddening of the skin above the hoof and between the cleats
- nasal discharge
- reddening and erosions on the teats
- fever
- milk drop • not eating
- abortion, foetal deformities and stillbirths

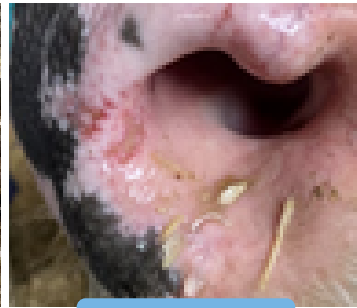
Adult cattle may be infectious for several weeks while showing little or no sign of disease. They are often the preferred host for biting midges (the vector of bluetongue virus).



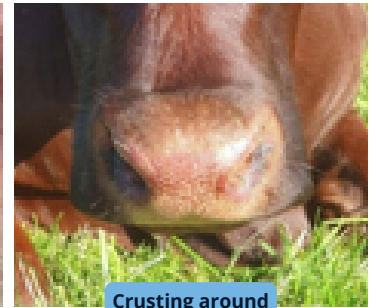
Reddening and erosions on the teats



Red interdigital cleft



Ulceration in nostrils

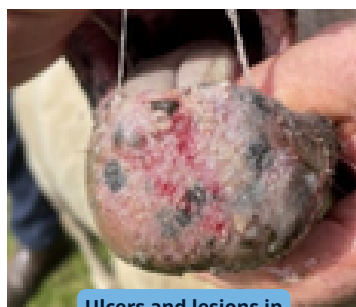


Crusting around nostril

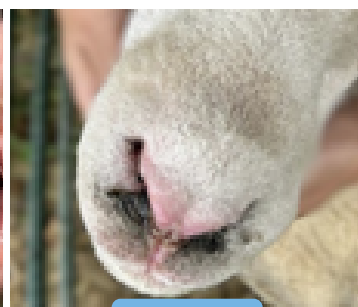
Bluetongue Signs in Sheep

Clinical signs to look out for in sheep:

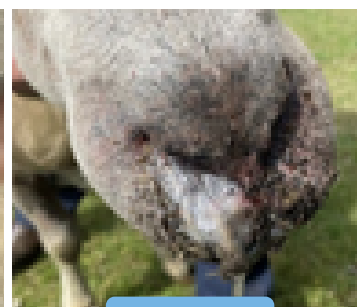
- ulcers or sores in the mouth and nose
- discharge from the eyes or nose and drooling from the mouth
- swelling of the lips, tongue, head and neck
- heat and tenderness at the coronary band (where the skin of the leg meets the horn of the foot)
- inappetence and weight loss
- red skin as a result of blood collecting beneath the surface
- fever
- lameness and reluctance to move
- breathing problems
- abortion, foetal deformities and stillbirths
- death



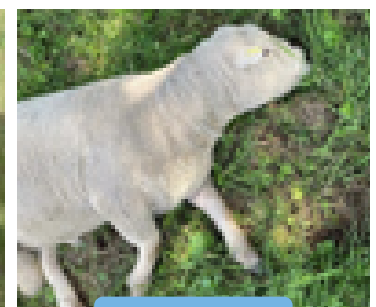
Ulcers and lesions in the mouth



Nasal redness



Nasal discharge



Recumbent animal