Daleside
Veterinary Group

# FARM NEWSLETTER

September 2025

## Changes in Bluetongue regulations

From the 21st September changes will be introduced to animal movement restrictions in Wales.

The change follows requests from the livestock industry and aims to support its operations while maintaining disease control. Temperatures in Wales during late September are usually low enough to reduce the risk of the BTV-3 virus completing its incubation period in newly infected midges. However, the disease can still be transmitted:

- By midges that were infected earlier in the season.
- By infected male animals during breeding.

What's Changing?

- Animals that have completed a primary vaccination scheme with any BTV-3 vaccine as per the product information datasheet and show no signs of illness can move into Wales without a pre-movement test, under the conditions of a general licence. The general licence will permit any vaccinated animal to move from the RZ to Wales to live, this includes farm-to-farm, via markets, and from shows or collection centres.
- This new licence will supersede the measures for 'Specified Green Markets' in England (introduced on 18th August) and under the new licence arrangements, markets in both England and Wales will be able to sell vaccinated and unvaccinated livestock at the same sale.
- Animals going to slaughter can continue to move under the current general licence, but slaughterhouses will no longer need to be designated after 21 September. The general licence will also be amended to include slaughter markets and collection centres for onward movement to a slaughterhouse and will supersede the current 'Bluetongue Approved Red Market' process in Wales. There is no vaccination requirement for animals moving under this licence.
- Non-vaccinated animals will still need a negative pre-movement test, and a specific licence from APHA to enable movements to live in Wales from the RZ.
- Animals which test positive for Bluetongue or are tested in a batch in which one or more animals test positive for Bluetongue cannot move to Wales. Keepers have the option to either pre-movement test again after 30 days or vaccinate the animals.

These changes to animal movement restrictions reflect industry's desire to facilitate the vital trade in breeding stock; they do not mean the disease itself has become less serious. Bluetongue can cause high death rates in sheep, reproductive problems, and reduced milk production in cattle. Vaccination is strongly recommended to protect animals and reduce the impact of the disease.

For any queries about animal movements into Wales, please give the office a call on 01978 311444 and speak to one of our vets.

## Sunflower competition 2025

Step aside Alan Titchmarsh, we have a new gardening guru....Marcus!

It was a tight competition this year, and the first year where everyone has managed to grow a sunflower!

Congratulations to our winner, Marcus

## Acorn Poisoning Awareness

In late summer, acorn poisoning is one of the most common causes of plant poisoning and with this years yield of acorns being particularly high, we are asking our clients to be vigilant and be familiar with the clinical signs.

Clinical Signs

- Sudden death can occur (although poisoning generally occurs over a period days)
- Constipation initially, followed by black watery diarrhoea.
- Depression and loss of appetite
- Straining to pass faeces and urine is very common
- Weakening, collapse and death (usually within seven days of the onset of signs)
- The animals have a normal temperature in most cases
- Dehydration – this occurs due to kidney damage which causes most of the deaths associated with acorn poisoning

Diagnosis

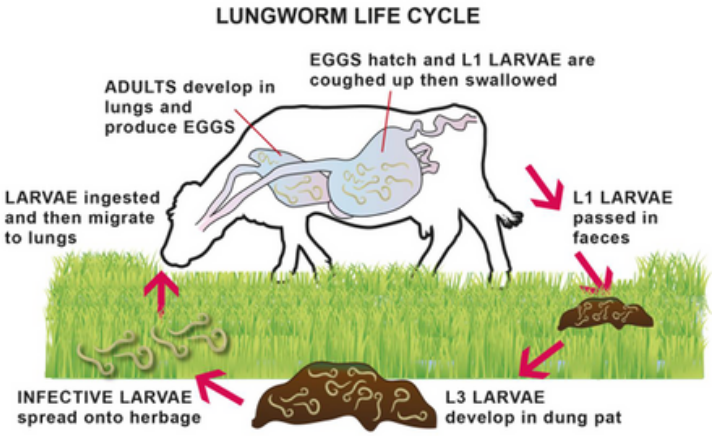
- On the clinical signs described above
- Finding large amounts of acorns and/or oak leaves at post mortem (although in advanced cases this may not be the case)
- In live animals, blood and urine tests can identify those with kidney failure
- Generally, only affects a few animals in the herd, as animals need to eat large amounts of acorns (which will only occur in cattle which develop a taste for them)

Treatment

- There is no specific antidote for acorn poisoning.
- If the cattle are removed from the acorn pasture in the early stages, most cattle will recover in two to three days
- Good supportive therapy is the only treatment available
- Fluid therapy: Oral and intravenous fluids will help keep the kidney functioning
- Broad-spectrum antibiotics to prevent secondary infection
- A single dose of a laxative mineral oil may help in the early stages
- Euthanasia may be the best option in more severe cases

# Lungworm

Lungworm is a parasitic disease caused by the worm Dictyocaulus viviparus which can cause severe economic losses if not managed properly. The lifecycle of lungworm is similar to that of gut worms. The larvae are ingested from faeces contaminated pasture, where it then penetrates the intestinal wall making its way to the lungs of the cattle. After migrating to the lungs, the adult worms lay eggs, they are coughed up, swallowed and then passed out in the faeces for the cycle to repeat itself.




In severe infections, an occasional cough may be heard at the end of the first week after infection. By the second and third weeks coughing becomes widespread and occasionally a massive infection can cause severe and sudden difficulty in breathing in some animals, often followed by death in 24–48 hours.

Lungworm is widespread in the UK with many herds affected, although most herds do not show signs of disease, it is only when a combination of circumstances favourable to the parasite arises that an outbreak of the disease may happen. Outbreaks are difficult to predict but generally occur from June through to November. The larvae are highly susceptible to hot weather and only survive on pasture for a limited period at the peak of summer. However, with the recent rainfall and temperatures still warm, we expect to see a spike in cases over the next month or so.

Cattle do develop immunity against lungworm and generally affects calves in their first grazing season. This immunity can be provided in the form of an oral vaccine, given in two doses prior to the grazing season. It is important that worming products are not used in the two weeks after vaccination or this will also kill the live vaccine.

Prevention of lungworm through pasture management is not as easy as it is for gut roundworms, but following an outbreak of clinical disease the pasture in question should be considered contaminated and grazing by at-risk animals avoided for the remainder of the season and, ideally, the start of the subsequent season.

For treatment and strategic management of lungworm, most worming products are effective with no known resistance. Where outbreaks of clinical disease occur, all animals within the affected group should be treated with an anthelmintic. Clinically affected animals should be removed from the pasture and placed on either clean grazing or housed in a well-ventilated building. Treatment with wormers in heavy infections can result in a mass die-off of parasites in the lungs which can worsen the condition and increase breathing difficulty. In this case, please contact us on 01978 311444 to discuss further treatment options.