



HIGHGATE VETERINARY CLINIC—Farm Newsletter

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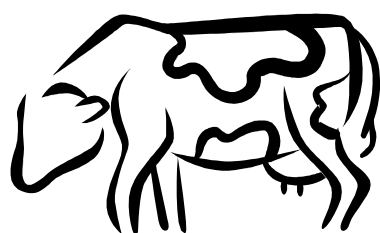
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Clinic opening times

Monday-Friday
8.30 am—7.30 pm

Saturday
9.00 am—12.30 pm

Sunday
Emergencies only



Inside this issue:

| | |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Bluetongue update | 1 |
| Johnes Disease | 2 |
| This month | 2 |

New bluetongue status for Britain

The European Commission has announced that Britain's bluetongue status will be reclassified as a Lower Risk Zone (LRZ) for bluetongue virus (BTV8).

Britain is currently part of the BTV8 Protection Zone, which covers much of Europe, and will become a LRZ on Saturday 12th June 2010. The LRZ is a new classification which requires stricter vaccination conditions to be placed on bluetongue-susceptible animals being imported. These stringent conditions are:

- vaccination plus a 60-day wait or;
- vaccination plus a test 14 days after onset of immunity or;
- booster vaccination within the time stated on each vaccine's data sheet.

This is good news. It indicates that the UK is heading towards being officially BTV free and it reduces the chances is infected animals being imported into the country.

As part of the JAB (Joint campaign Against Bluetongue) campaign group, the veterinary

profession is also urging farmers to continue to vaccinate their livestock due to the small but ongoing risks of re-infection from wind-borne spread of the disease, and the risk of importing infected foetuses.

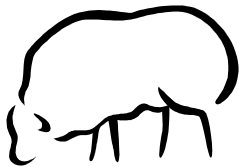
We believe that a small but significant number of pregnant animals could be carrying a BTV-infected foetus but still test negative in the post-import blood test. The newborn animal could infect the local midge population and restart the circulation of the disease. Once the disease is in the midge population it can spread huge distances in short periods of time.





This Month:

- ◇ Faecal egg count (FEC) before worming lambs to ensure you're not treating them unnecessarily. If worming does prove necessary repeat FEC after treatment (discuss with us re timing) to determine if worm resistance is a possibility especially if white wormers are being used.



Which disease?

Infected cows produce less milk (4000Kg in a lifetime of production), are five times more likely to be lame, twice as likely to have a high cell count and record a 1.8 times increase in digestive and respiratory disease.



So which disease? BVD perhaps, it gets the blame for most cattle illnesses. No, these alarming statistics are related to Johnes disease. Cows with clinical disease are only the tip of the iceberg

of infected animals. For each clinical case, there could be between 12 and 24 cows infected and able to spread disease. The lack of clinical cases on your farm isn't a good indication of it's absence. You could be culling infected cows for the above reasons before they start scouring.

This disease is difficult to detect and control but if monitoring and control measures are put into action and adhered to, Johnes can be reigned in. Contact Mark if you would like to know if your herd is infected.

