RUMINANT NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2026

HOWELLS VETERINARY SERVICES Est. 2000

@howellsvets | @howellsvets | www.howellsvets.co.uk | 01347 823678 | York Road, Easingwold, YO61 3EB



WHAT'S ON

To Book Email meetings@howellsvets.co.uk

Fertility Focus: Impact of Infectious Diseases

When: Monday 2nd November 2026
Time: 6.30pm to 9pm
Where: The Gavel Cafe, Thirsk, YO7 3AB

Pie and pea supper included

THE GAVEL CAFÉ & BAR

Making The Most Of Medicines

When: Wednesday 2nd December 2026
Time: 3pm to 5pm **Where:** Online £49.50 plus VAT

Intermediate Foot Trimming Course

For those who would like a deeper understanding and the opportunity to practice their new skills crush-side, our three-day 'Intermediate Hoof Trimming Course' is the one for you. This longer course allows for one day of discussion and practical training at our Farm Dispensary Site, followed by two days on farm for supervised trimming practice.

When: 3 day course from Monday 23rd to Wednesday 25th November 2026
Time: 8.30am to 5pm daily **Where:** At our Farm Dispensary, and on farm location to be disclosed upon booking.

PRACTICE NEWS

We welcomed Sian Curtis back from her maternity leave last month. Sian brings a wealth of experience from her 14 years in practice, 9 of which of them with the Howell's team.
She is enjoying being back out on farm, getting stuck in on everything from emergencies to health planning.



VET'S VIEWPOINT



Written by Rachael Pond
BVSc, MRCVS

Bluetongue: Should You Vaccinate?

Bluetongue Virus (BTV) is now present across the UK. Although most cases are currently in the west, it's something all livestock farmers should be thinking about.
I'm being asked the same questions on farm:
"Is it too late to vaccinate?"
No. Now is better than never.
"Will it affect fertility in my bulls or tups?"
Guidance from the Sheep Veterinary Society and British Cattle Veterinary Association states that there is no evidence that approved BTV vaccines reduce fertility in ewes or cows.
"Why vaccinate if it doesn't cover every strain?"
Of the confirmed cases this season, only BTV-3 have been confirmed— the strain covered by the available vaccine.

Our advice:
If you haven't vaccinated yet, we strongly recommend considering vaccination against BTV.
Speak to us if you'd like to discuss vaccination or order your vaccine directly from our Farm Dispensary.

Est. 2000

Independent and proudly supporting our farming community for over 30 years

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PNEAUMONIA IT'S TIME TO ACT!

As we approach the colder nights, it's essential to think about preventing pneumonia before an outbreak happens.

Colostrum - With youngstock, ensure the 4Qs of colostrum within 4 hours of birth to ensure adequate passive transfer and to maximise immunity.

The 4 Q's
- **Quality**
- **Quantity**
- **Quickly**
- **sQueaky Clean**

Housing – Good ventilation without draughts at the animals' level are essential. Consider putting (clean!) jackets on young animals during cold weather. Any time spent shivering reduces time spent growing!

Airspace – Are youngstock sharing an airspace or buildings with adults? This dramatically increases the infection risk of pneumonia in younger animals. Sometimes space is tight and this cannot be helped. In this instance, take steps such as considering the direction of airflow through the housing and ensure a robust vaccination protocol.

Vaccination – Remember that vaccination is not a substitute for hygiene or the steps outlined above.
However, it will help provide the highest level of protection for your herd. If you wish to talk about your vaccination protocol, please do not hesitate to call us.

Act Early – While prevention using the steps above is best, identifying cases and acting early are key to keeping an outbreak under control. .

Taking swabs in animals with a temperature before they are showing signs is the best way to identify the cause.

Please call us for further information on this.



Kimberly Popple
BVSci MRCVS



HOUSING TREATMENTS

As autumn approaches, cattle farmers begin preparing for housing their cattle over the winter months. This is an ideal time to decide which animals to treat, and which products are best to choose for successful effect for healthy animals and to help growth rates and production over winter.

- Ectoparasites such as lice and flies – Products such as Flydown Delta (Deltamethrin) for treatment and prevention of infestations of both sucking and biting lice and an aid in the treatment and prevention of infestations of both biting and nuisance flies. Flypor (Permethrin) for the control of biting flies, horn flies and lice and treatment of mange.
- Endoparasites such as stomach and gut worms, lung worm & liver fluke. Gold standard protocol would be test before treating using FWEC or blood/ copro-antigen tests for liver fluke.
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Our team of qualified SQP's are happy to talk through treatment options and products when it comes to housing.

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