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## WHAT'S ON

### Show Season:

Come and say hello to us at the North Yorkshire County Show held at Otterington Hall in Northallerton on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2026

We are also attending the following shows in July. Please pop by our stand if you are visiting.

- Huby and Sutton Show Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July
- Driffield Show Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July
- Borrowby Show Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July - show vet
- Boroughbridge and Aldborough Show Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July- show vet
- Ryedale Show Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> July

## VET'S VIEWPOINT: BLUE TONGUE UPDATE



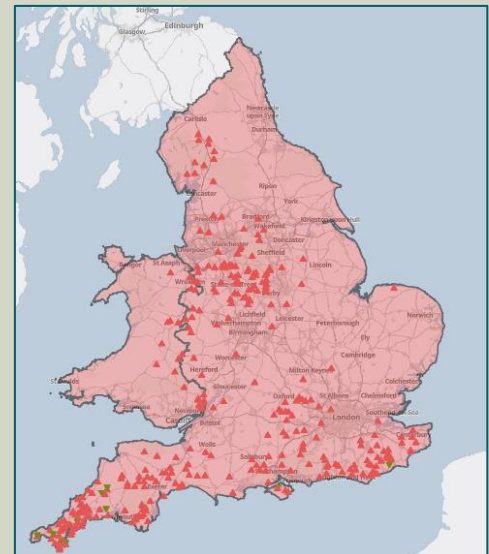
Written by  
Samuel Clark MRCVS

I recently attended an AHDB webinar about the consequences of bluetongue on fertility and abortions in ruminants this year. Interestingly, there have been a lot of dummy calves and abortions reported throughout England, but far fewer in the East of the country, including North Yorkshire. The APHA suspect this due to higher rates of vaccination in the East of the country.

Around 65% of BTV-3 cases found during monitoring have been asymptomatic but tested positive on blood or their deformed fetus or newborn.

**As of April 2026, there have been 330 positive tests for Bluetongue in Great Britain in the 2025 to 2026 bluetongue season (since 1 July 2025).**

The Bluetongue vaccine is Bultavo 3. The primary course in sheep requires one dose, two doses 3 weeks apart in cattle. The manufacturers of Bultavo 3 have recommended a yearly single booster in all species. We are currently in the low-risk period so now is the perfect time to start a vaccine program or booster. If you have any questions about bluetongue or the vaccine, please do not hesitate to speak to our team.



**BTV cases in England since July 2025 – April 2026**

*Independent and proudly supporting our farming community for over 30 years*

# Nematodirus

It's the time of year when young lambs start grazing and *Nematodirus* larvae begins to emerge.

*Nematodirus battus* is a gastrointestinal worm which has a massive impact on UK sheep flocks due to high lamb mortality and reduction in growth rates following infection. Traditionally, infection is seen in lambs in late spring as temperatures rise following a period of cold weather. This results in a 'mass-hatch' of larval stages of the worm on pasture and causes an overwhelming infection in naive lambs resulting in signs from profuse watery diarrhoea and lethargy to acute death. The temperature need to maintain a temperature of 10 degrees Celsius following a cold snap to allow the mass hatch.

*Nematodirus* can strike very quickly, this means rapid action is often required and, as infection is caused by larvae which do not produce eggs, faecal egg counts (FECs) are an unreliable indicator of risk. Instead, we must base management on risk assessment:

High-risk pastures are those that carried lamb's last spring

High-risk lambs are those that are grazing between 6 and 12 weeks old, especially those that are triplets or facing other challenges such as coccidiosis.

High-risk season is determined by region through the *Nematodirus* Hatching Forecast (found here, updated regularly

<https://www.scops.org.uk/forecasts/nematodirus-forecast/>).

The white (benzimidazole) drenches are still highly effective against *Nematodirus* on most farms and are suitable for young lambs so are regularly recommended as treatment. Remember, it may be necessary to treat lambs more than once depending on the ages of the lambs and subsequent weather conditions. As environmental and hatching patterns change, it is worth having *Nematodirus* on your radar in the summer and autumn as we are starting to see challenges outside of the traditional spring season.

**Infections at this time of year typically cause diarrhoea and deaths in growing lambs. If you have any concerns, then please contact the practice for advice.**



## Parasite Control Fly Bait Buckets

As the warmer weather approaches, we'll start to see an increase in nuisance flies. These innovative bucket traps intended to target the adult life stages of flies around the farmyard. When combined with fly bait, it is extremely effective at capturing high volumes of flies.



How it works...

A bait solution which is irresistible to flies is placed inside the bucket. Flies are also attracted by the vivid yellow colour of the bucket due to its similarity to pollen. Flies enter the bucket through strategically placed one-way cones around the bucket and are then unable to escape, drowning in the bait solution.

Get in touch to order yours today by calling 01347 823678 Option 2 or emailing [sales@howellsvets.co.uk](mailto:sales@howellsvets.co.uk)