



@howellsvets



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WHAT'S ON

Show Season:

Come and say hello to us at the Huby and Sutton Show on Sunday 5th July 2026

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

- Drifffield Show Wednesday 22nd July
- Borrowby Show Saturday 25th July - show vet
- Boroughbridge and Aldborough Show Sunday 26th July - show vet
- Ryedale Show Tuesday 28th July
- Osmotherly Show Dates 1st August
- Tockwith Show 2nd August

PRACTICE NEWS

Welcome to our two new vets Harriet Roberts and Charlie Robinson

Last month we welcomed Charlie (left) and Harriet (right) to the practice. Both vets bring a wealth of experience from their time in practice, but they also grew up on farms.

Both are keen to get stuck in; you may have already met them on your farm already. We are delighted to have them on our team.



VET'S VIEWPOINT:



Cattle are turned out and many of you are busy with land work but there still plenty going on at this time of year to keep us vets busy. So, what springs to mind as a farm vet in the summer?

- **WORMS WORMS WORMS;** poor performance in lambs and calves at grass? Always check for worms. Our farm dispensary team process hundreds of muck samples on our FECPAK machine through the summer and routine monitoring is an absolute priority to maximise growth rates.
- Scoured calves deteriorate very quickly in the summer heat, make sure you have electrolytes in stock to supplement them with. Even better, discuss with our team how to control scour in our herd.

Written by
Leanne Forde –
Archer BVSc MRCVS

IT'S SHOW TIME: I look forward to chatting to lots of you at Ryedale and Drifffield show, come and say Hello!

Independent and proudly supporting our farming community for over 30 years

Fly Borne Diseases

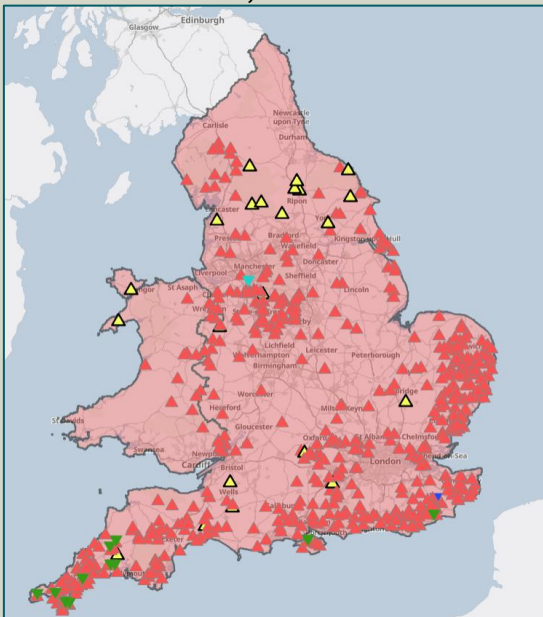
Flies can be taken for granted but they can cause disease directly or transmit fatal bacteria and viruses. Not only this, but the sheer nuisance they cause results in reduced performance; irritated animals do not eat as much.

Flystrike: Flies lay their eggs on damp or diseased regions and the maggots thrive, possibly causing death by toxic shock if not caught in time.

Summer mastitis: typically occurs in non lactating (dry) cows and heifers during the summer. The teats of bulls can also be affected, which can cause subfertility due to fever and proximity to the testicles. Several bacteria are implicated but ultimately these infections are spread by flies. The mastitis can be so severe, the animals very sick and even die. However, it can go unnoticed until they calve and have a nonfunctional quarter.

New Forest eye: severe conjunctivitis spread by flies than can lead to the loss of the affected eye.

Bluetongue and Schmallenberg virus are both spread by midges; both these viruses can cause increased returns, abortion and severe deformities.



Confirmed cases of bluetongue virus in England and Wales since August 2024

Blue tongue virus remains a threat in the UK, and we are still urging clients to vaccinate their stock. There have been 347 cases of bluetongue in Great Britain in the 2025 to 2026 bluetongue season (since 1 July 2025). Looking at the data published by APHA, of the nine positive test results in England during May 2026, 7 were on 'dummy' newborn calves or late term abortions. We have to remember that these are only the cases that have been reported and tested, there could be many more.

Battling Bluetongue Virus

Will an insecticide protect my livestock from midge bites?

There is no evidence that insecticides (applied to the animal) can kill midges fast enough to prevent the first bite and will not prevent onward transmission of bluetongue. There are no products licensed for *Culicoides* 'control'. Residual spraying of insecticides around your farm would present a significant environmental risk to all other insects. The only effective control measure for preventing Bluetongue infection on your farm is vaccination. Please speak to our farm vets to learn more.

Fly Control

The UK Fly season typically runs from May to September, with July and August usually being the warmest months and the peak of the season. Although with the ever-changing weather a warm spring can also lead to the season starting earlier. The [NADIS - National Animal Disease Information Service](#) blow fly watch website can be a useful tool to see when the emergence of blowflies is in your area and to help guide preventative treatment timings and when is the highest risk of clinical cases.

We stock a range of pour on products in our dispensary and our experienced SQP team are on hand to discuss what will be best for your system.

Preventing the number of flies in the animal's environment can decrease the effect on production. This can be done by using; bio wasps, correctly placed fly traps and fly tape, using pour on preventative treatment and fly sprays.

Please call us on 01347 823648 op. 2 for the farm dispensary to discuss preventative treatment options and we can pass you through to discuss and/or arrange a visit with the vets for clinical cases.

