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Bluetongue Update

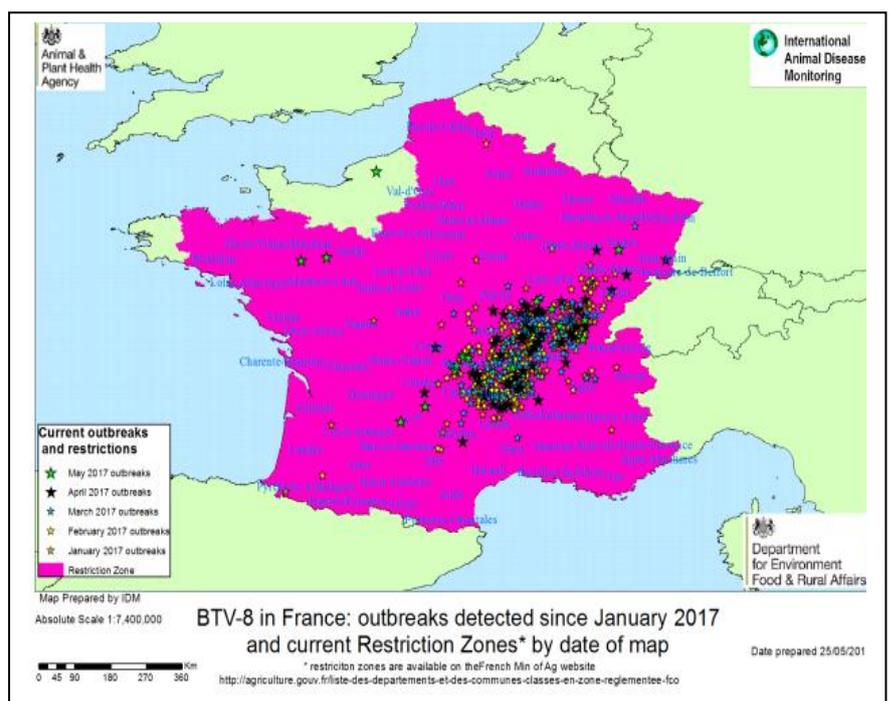
Last year DEFRA predicted an 80% chance that Bluetongue would re-enter the UK from France, where Bluetongue infection remains endemic in central & south-east regions but with sporadic cases detected in Northern France. The prediction was based on climatic modelling which estimates the likelihood of infected midges blowing across the English Channel from affected parts of France. In the end incursion of Bluetongue back into the UK did not occur last year, and DEFRA's ongoing surveillance would suggest the UK is still currently free of Bluetongue.

The latest modelling currently indicates a LOW risk of Bluetongue re-entering the UK, however this risk may well change later in the year if climatic conditions alter or further cases continue to emerge in Northern France.

Bluetongue vaccination has been available in the UK since July 2016 and currently costs £1.14 per dose (exc. VAT). The decision of whether to protect your herd or flock against Bluetongue with vaccination needs to be made factoring risk and cost-benefit.

Arguments against vaccination include:

- Cost
- Labour administering the vaccine
- The current low risk of infection.



Arguments in favour of vaccination include:

- The risk of infection could increase fairly quickly if the right conditions prevail.
- Should Bluetongue re-enter the UK there may well be vaccine shortage due to mass ordering (as has happened previously).
- Bluetongue is most likely to arrive somewhere on the South coast.
- It is a relatively cheap vaccine.
- Vaccination is the only effective way to safeguard against Bluetongue. Insecticides such as Swish (cattle only), Flypor (cattle only) and Spot-On (cattle & sheep) help to reduce midge bites and may slow the spread of disease, but are ineffective at preventing Bluetongue because they will not stop all midge bites.

Primary Vaccination (for herds & flocks that are currently unvaccinated):

SHEEP = Zulvac 8 Ovis = Two subcutaneous 2ml doses given 3 weeks apart from 1.5 months of age.

CATTLE = Zulvac 8 Bovis = Two intramuscular 2ml doses given 3 weeks apart from 3 months of age.

Annual Booster Vaccination (for animals that received a primary vaccination course last year):

SHEEP = Zulvac 8 Ovis = A single subcutaneous 2ml dose

CATTLE = Zulvac 8 Bovis = A single intramuscular 2ml dose*

*Full trial work has not yet been done to officially recommend a single annual booster dose in cattle that received a primary course 12 months ago, however we are satisfied from trial work that has been done by the vaccine companies that a single annual booster dose in cattle should maintain sufficient protective immunity for a further 12 months.

Clinical Signs of Bluetongue

SHEEP = Swelling and ulcers in the mouth, drooling, swelling of the head, neck and coronary band (where the skin of the leg meets the horn of the foot). Red skin, fever, lameness & breathing problems may also be seen.

CATTLE = Often asymptomatic although production losses were commonly reported during the 2007/8 outbreak. Clinical signs in cattle can include; swelling & ulcers in the mouth, nasal discharge, swollen teats, red skin and eyes.



If you suspect Bluetongue in any of your stock contact us at the surgery immediately.

For the full DEFRA Bluetongue update please visit:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/616106/btv-8-france-update18.pdf

Enzovax and Toxovax Orders

We would like to encourage any clients who are yet to order Enzovax and Toxovax vaccines to call as soon as possible to let us know how many doses you require. There have been recent supply delays from the manufacturers and potential stock shortages, so we please call so we can fulfil your orders.



Enzovax: to reduce abortion in female breeding sheep caused by Enzootic Abortion (Chlamydia bacterial infection). Ewe lambs may be vaccinated from 5 months of age. Shearlings and older ewes should be vaccinated during the 4 month period prior to mating. **Do not vaccinate animals less than 4 weeks before mating.** Re-vaccination is recommended every 3-4 years.

Toxovax: to reduce the effects of Toxoplasmosis infection that can cause early embryonic death, barren ewes, abortion and the birth of weak and or small lambs. Ewe lambs can be vaccinated from 5 months of age. Shearlings and older ewes should be vaccinated during the 4 month period prior to mating.

Do not vaccinate animals less than 3 weeks before mating. Re-vaccinate after 2 years, although it has been documented that one vaccine will be sufficient for life due to natural re-exposure boosting immunity.



Lungworm Warning

Given the recent warm and wet weather the risk of parasites is potentially higher for the remainder of summer and autumn.

We have started to see cases of lungworm (Husk) and advise that you monitor for signs of infection; deep repeated coughing, particularly in youngstock & young adult cattle in their first or second grazing seasons.

To diagnose lungworm; collect a fresh faecal sample from 6-10 affected animals; bring it to the practice and request the specific lungworm test. We look for the lungworm larvae as oppose to the worm eggs produced by gut worms; so the test is different to the regular worm egg counts.

Early in the infection some faecal samples may come back negative even though the stock are affected, this is due to the parasite being immature and not producing eggs yet, (parasite must be 3 weeks old to produce eggs.) If we do still suspect lungworm we can use a blood test to confirm infection status.

Please call for advice on treatment and prevention strategies, as certain wormers are more appropriate to use than others and vaccines against lungworm are available.





GILLINGHAM & SHAFTESBURY AGRICULTURAL SHOW

Motcombe Turnpike Showground SP7 9PL



**Wednesday
16th August 2017**

We would like to thank all of our clients for their continued support over the years, as well as welcoming new clients, by inviting you all to join us at the Gillingham & Shaftesbury Show!

Alice, Matt & Lucy, alongside the equine and small animal team look forward to seeing you there. Please feel free to bring along friends and family.



Staff News

As many of you know our vet Harriet Weller-Poley underwent cruciate knee surgery back in April. Although successful the degree of pre-existing cartilage damage has hampered her recovery. Despite her best efforts the latest doctor's advice is that it is likely to take another 6-12 months of rest and physiotherapy before she would be fit to return to large animal work.

Harriet has carefully considered this advice and after discussions with ourselves has decided to take a career break from large animal work and use her time to develop her small animal skills. It is with great regret

that we will be losing Harriet from our large animal team and we know many clients will also be sad to see her go. We all wish her a successful recovery and hope to see her back doing large animal work sometime in the future.



On a happier note we are pleased to welcome our new vet **Alice Keddy** to the farm animal team; Alice is newly graduated and comes highly recommended from the Royal Veterinary College in London. She is looking forward to life in Dorset and meeting our clients over the coming months.