



GALEDIN
VETERINARY

Farm Newsletter August 2025



| BVD UPDATE | FARMER MEETING | BLUETONGUE | QUARANTINE TREATMENTS | POST-MORTEM |
BVD Phase 6 Updates (Applies to Scotland)

All keepers in Scotland should recently have received notification that on 1st July 2025 we entered Phase 6 of the Scottish Government's BVD Eradication Policy.

From 1st July 2025:

- Persistently Infected (PI) calves on all holdings must be isolated from their first positive test -this now includes non-breeding herds.
- Management tags can be used for tissue samples – this will be of benefit to holdings which wish to tissue tag but already use official tags for breed society requirements. **Please submit all and any tissue tags as regularly as possible (even in small batches) so that the results are uploaded promptly.**
- ON movements will be restricted from 40 days after the first upload of a positive antigen result. This will allow time to have positive animals retested

From 1st February 2026:

- Not-negative herds under Compulsory BVD Investigation (CBI) will have movement restrictions for ON movements after 13 months in CBI.
- Calves which are born out of cows which were **purchased whilst in-calf** ("Trojan cows") **MUST** be tested within 40 days of birth (or before they move off the holding – whichever is first). This can be done by blood test or by tissue tag. **These calves cannot leave the herd untested.**

Key Points for BVD Compliance:

- Any calf can be a PI – including those born dead. To complete a calf screen by tissue tagging, ALL calves born in a 12 month period must be tested, including stillborn calves or those that die before registering.
- Purchasing in-calf animals remains one of the highest risks for the introduction of BVD to your herd. Assurances should be sought for the status of the herd before purchase.
- Whilst there is less BVD circulating, the vaccines we have available provide a robust immunity and remain the best insurance policy against a large scale BVD outbreak for herds which have nose to nose contact with other cattle or are frequently purchasing cattle from other holdings.



Where is Bluetongue?

Scan the QR code to see the current Bluetongue cases seen this year.
The best protection for your animals is vaccination.
Please discuss your specific scenario with your vet.

Date for the Diary

We have two farmer meetings coming up talking all things to do with sheep worming.

Please let us know if you're planning on attending.

Kindly sponsored and hosted by Elanco the meetings will be at:

Galedin Duns, Putton Mill at 6.30pm on Tuesday 19th August
Cross Keys, Kelso (Oak Room) at 6.30pm on Wednesday 20th August

Ewe Body Condition

Weaning is the perfect opportunity to check ewe body condition. If leaner ewes don't respond to increased nutrition after weaning then we should check for underlying diseases such as OPA, MV and Johnes disease. Post weaning is also when cobalt deficiency can manifest in lambs. Some of the injectable cobalt products have had stock issues this year so please contact us to discuss any concerns and alternative products.

Post Mortem Examinations at SRUC Vet Lab

Kirsty Chilman BVM&S MRCVS

As vets, we are heavily reliant on our colleagues at the SRUC vet labs in Scotland and, in the Borders, we are lucky enough to have one on our doorstep in St Boswells.

One of the most useful and frequently used services is Post Mortem (PM) Examination. We will usually recommend this if an animal has died unexpectedly or more often in cases of flock or herd issues and following multiple sick or dead animals. **Remember any sudden or unexplained death should have had anthrax ruled out** before the animal can safely have a PM so please contact us if you are unsure whether an anthrax test is necessary!

Ideally, a very freshly dead animal should be taken to the lab as quickly as possible. As soon as the carcass starts to decay the chances of getting valuable diagnostic information decreases. Post mortem exams are heavily subsidised so are a very cost effective thing to do as you get a lot of diagnostics done on one animal for a set fee.

Firstly the "gross post mortem" is carried out. This involves physically looking in detail at the whole carcass and every organ and tissue is closely inspected. Often there are clues as to what's going on at this stage. Parasitic infections, bacterial infections and physical problems such as stomach ulcers or enteritis in cattle for example tend to leave signs in the tissue.

Once the gross post mortem is complete, tissues are then subject to testing. Some tissues are fixed and then examined on a microscopic level. This is known as histopathology.

Disruptions or changes to normal tissue architecture may be seen here and in many cases some diseases or syndromes have classical changes which can in themselves be diagnostic for that disease or condition.

In a suspect case of pneumonia for example, if the lung tissue is fresh enough there will be further testing carried out on the tissue and often the casual agents (viruses or bacteria such as mycoplasma) can be tested for or isolated during molecular testing and serology. Bacterial cultures will also be taken. Where a bacteria is isolated from a tissue and suspected to be involved in causing disease it is also possible to run a sensitivity test to see which antibiotics would be most appropriate to use if antibiotics are going to be part of the plan to treat cases still appearing on the farm the animal came from.

Post Mortem Exams are a valuable resource with a lot of testing and diagnostics done behind the scenes all for a set fee. Current costs range from £110 for a single adult sheep or calf under 6 months to £175 for an adult cow. Foetuses and multiple post mortems are discounted. These costs are for Scottish Farms only.

We would always ask that you ring us if you are considering taking a carcass in for post mortem. Firstly so we can discuss the case and get any relevant history from you to pass on to our colleagues at the lab. Secondly so we can give them a heads up that you are going to drop an animal off for post mortem and that way we also are aware that we need to look out for any results for you and keep you posted as to any findings. We all work very closely and the more information we can provide the lab about farm and case history, the more likely we are to be able to give sound advice based on the results of lab testing!

Quarantine Treatments of Replacement Tups and Gimmers

Animal movements are the single biggest risk of introducing **sheep scab** and **resistant worms and fluke** to your farm.

All incoming stock should be **isolated** on arrival and inspected for signs of CODD, blood sampled for sheep scab and treated for worms. Fluke treatment may be required on a case by case basis.

A wormer with little reported resistance should be used as a quarantine treatment such as Zolvix or Startect. **Through August and September we can supply individual doses of Zolvix for incoming tups or small numbers of incoming sheep as an alternative to purchasing a whole bottle.**

Animals should either be housed for 48 hours after treatment or turned out to pasture which is heavily contaminated with a healthy refugia population of worms.

CONTACT US

For all out of hours emergency calls please call your usual surgery number, and your call will be directed directly to our answering service who will contact the on-call vet(s) for your site.

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If you would like more information on this month's newsletter topics, please speak to any of our farm vet team.

