



APRIL 2025

National Johne's Management Plan

Phase III of the National Johne's Management Plan (NJMP) was launched on Monday 31st March 2025. Phases I and II sought to control and reduce the incidence of Johne's disease. The objective for Phase III remains unchanged and retains the basic architecture of the NJMP, which requires regular vet/farmer dialogue focusing on risk management and implementation of an appropriate control strategy. This will continue to be backed up by annual certification.

Key changes for Phase III include:

- All herds are required to obtain an Average Test Value (ATV) for their herd to help assess the level of disease present and allow progress to be tracked over time.
- The minimum requirement to generate an ATV will be a 60-cow random screen. The 30-cow targeted screen is no longer an acceptable option.
- The creation of a national Johne's control index target of ATV 5.5 with a goal to achieve this by 2030.
- The ability, through the creation of a National Johne's Tracker Database, to track progress nationally using ATV, % incidence and other drivers of infection within herds.

We will be introducing these changes to each dairy farm as we go through your annual NJMP review during 2025, but if you would like any advice before this please ring and speak to a vet.



Trace Element Challenges this Summer

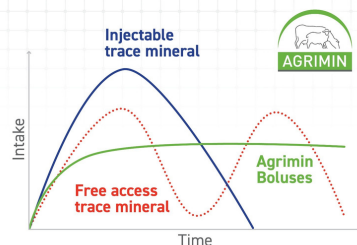
Climate change can increase the challenges to our grazing livestock in a couple of ways.

1. Extremes of rainfall leach out water-soluble minerals and trace elements from topsoil.

2. Periods of drought decrease the availability of minerals from grass. Agrimin's sustained release eroding boluses provide a consistent, guaranteed release of trace elements over an extended period of time. This ensures every individual animal is consistently covered with a broad range of trace elements, without having to worry about variable intake levels from free-choice options (e.g. buckets, licks, feed), or having to repeat administration of shorter acting injectables. We stock a variety of these boluses, suitable for both young and adult cattle and sheep.

If you know which deficiencies are present on your farm, then we can have a chat about the best way to supplement your stock. If you are unsure as to your mineral status, we can advise you on how to find out which minerals are deficient on your farm, potentially making use of Farming Connect or AHWP funding.

THE ADVANTAGES OF ERODING BOLUSES



Are you unsure whether you should vaccinate your stock against Bluetongue?



An invaluable new Battle Bluetongue tool has been created to help vets and farmers assess the potential economic risk or return for a farm considering vaccinating flocks and herds against bluetongue serotype 3 (BTV-3) this year.

Two BTV-3 vaccination finance calculators have been developed by AHDB - one is dedicated to sheep and the other to beef cattle. This calculator has been added to the resources available for vets and farmers to use in the Battle Bluetongue vaccination campaign launched for farmers in England and Wales in February 2025 -

developed by AHDB and Ruminant Health & Welfare in collaboration with key veterinary and industry associations, including BCVA. <https://ahdb.org.uk/knowledge-library/btv-3-vaccination-finance-calculator-sheep> If you would like to use the calculator, please follow the link above or call us and speak to one of the vets. Vaccine supply seems to be inconsistent, so if you would like to vaccinate contact us ASAP.

Lamb Mortality in the First Month of Life

With the bulk of flocks getting through their lambing and the lack of early grass growth, losses in the first month of life may well be higher this year than most. Gross postmortem examination can provide a quick answer for farmers, with diagnostic testing used to support the diagnosis. Below is a quick review of the causes of some of the most common causes of sudden death after turnout. We can quickly postmortem lambs on farm or at the office and Farming Connect funding could be used for this sort of investigation.



Pneumonia/Pasteurellosis: Death can follow respiratory signs, but lambs are most often found dead. In lambs under 1 month old *Mannheimia haemolytica* is by far the most common cause.

Colisepticaemia (Watery Mouth): *E. coli* septicaemia is most often diagnosed in lambs under one week old and is associated with inadequate colostrum intake. Diagnosis is surprisingly challenging as there are often no gross postmortem findings. Collection of blood at postmortem exam (or from live lambs under 7 days of age) and demonstration of a low ZST test result indicating failure of passive transfer of antibodies is also helpful.

Pulpy Kidney: Most diagnoses of Pulpy Kidney (*Clostridium perfringens* type D disease) occur in April and May. A small number of these diagnoses are in neonatal animals; however it may be underdiagnosed since postmortem examination of this age of lamb is less common. Clinical signs before death include weakness, recumbency, seizures and muscle stiffness, as well as sudden death.

Lamb Dysentery: We are now entering the period when lamb dysentery (*Clostridium perfringens* type B disease) risk is highest in the main April lambing flock. It is mostly seen in outdoor lambing flocks and presents as sudden death, occasionally with reports of a preceding bloody scour. Traditionally thought of as a disease in very young lambs, most diagnoses are made in lambs over seven days of age.

Intestinal torsion (twisted gut): Also known as red gut, intestinal torsions are sporadic, and more often seen in well grown or hand-reared lambs, especially associated with the introduction of creep feed. It is thought that fermentation of carbohydrate within the intestine causes gassy distention and displacement, leading to an intestinal twist.

Starvation: Commonly due to mismothering or rejection, which is usually in lambs under one month old. Lambs are typically small, poorly-muscled with sunken eyes (dehydration), meaning depletion of body fat and tacky skin are often observed on gross postmortem. An empty abomasum and scant contents in GI tract in younger lambs is supportive of the diagnosis.

Product of the Month: Red Calf For Calves and Lambs

- Invigorating energy booster for newborn lambs, calves and foals
- Convenient syringe for easy application
- Recommended particularly for weak calves delivered in difficult calvings or by C-section
- Contains rapidly absorbed medium chain triglycerides, glucose, natural sources of caffeine, vitamins and minerals



Joke of the Month

What did the
cow say to her
calf?

It's pasture
bedtime.



If you know a good joke, please
send it to us - you might see it
in our next newsletter!

Upcoming Meetings

Thursday 17th April 7pm: Bluetongue - Should I Vaccinate?

Booking preferred but not essential

Monmouthshire Livestock Market, NP15 2BH. Tea and Coffee provided

