



>>> NEWSLETTER <<< SEPTEMBER 2026



BLUETONGUE UPDATE



Officially there have been at least 2 confirmed cases of Bluetongue in Monmouthshire, with others in the surrounding counties. However, there is a significant delay in receiving results and we are awaiting results in many more cases with suspicious clinical signs. Vaccine supply is still challenging, but we are getting sporadic deliveries to fulfill our orders. We would encourage clients to vaccinate, not just to protect the livestock now, but through into next year, when we can probably expect the disease to appear earlier and be more widespread.



JOHNE'S CONTROL: WHAT'S NEW THIS YEAR FOR DAIRY FARMERS

The National Johne's Management Plan (NJMP) has moved into Phase III, and there are several important changes affecting all UK dairy herds:

- Average Test Value (ATV) now required for every herd. The old 30-cow targeted screen is gone. All herds must complete a minimum 60-cow random screen to generate an ATV. This gives a clearer picture of herd status and allows national benchmarking.
- National Johne's Control Index (JCI) target set for 2030. The UK dairy sector is working **towards a ATVoF ≤ 5.5** . Your herd's ATV contributes to this national progress.
- Non-milk-recording herds now included for the first time, over 4,500 herds outside milk recording are part of national Johne's reporting. This gives a more accurate view of disease levels across the country.
- National prevalence continues to fall. Herds testing four times per year consistently show lower ATVs than those testing once. More than half of UK herds now achieve an ATV ≤ 5.5 .
- Annual updates to JD Tracker benchmarks. Benchmarks are now based on rolling 3-year averages, giving farmers a more stable and realistic comparison year-on-year.

Autumn Risks After a Dry, Hot Summer

Dry summers increase Johne's transmission risk because:

- Cows cluster around fewer water points
- Pasture contamination becomes concentrated
- Calving paddocks may have higher faecal loading
- Youngstock may have been grazed closer to adult cow areas

This makes autumn testing and planning more important than usual.

Practical Autumn Actions for Your Farm

These are the key steps we recommend for all herds this autumn:

1. Review Your ATV, Discuss your latest results with your vet, Identify trends over the past 12–24 months, Use ATV to refine your Johne's control strategy for winter
2. Plan for Winter Housing, Keep high-risk cows out of the main calving area, Maintain strict separation between adult cows and youngstock, Scrape passages frequently to reduce faecal contamination, Ensure bedding stays dry and clean
3. Tighten Colostrum Management, Do not pool colostrum, Avoid feeding colostrum or milk from Johne's-positive cows, Keep colostrum collection equipment clean and disinfected, Store colostrum in clearly labelled containers
4. Identify High-Risk Animals Before Calving, Mark Johne's-positive cows clearly (apply management tag), Calve them in a separate area, Ensure calves from positive cows receive clean colostrum from low-risk cows
5. Review Testing Frequency

Quarterly whole-herd testing provides more detailed information for control, whereas a 60-cow screen is primarily surveillance, Annual testing is acceptable but slower to reduce prevalence, More frequent testing improves ATV and reduces long-term losses.



SFS REMINDER

Please can all clients who have signed up for the SFS contact us to make an appointment to get your AHIC and Biosecurity Assessment completed. Farmers who are members of an accredited farm assurance scheme that commits to integrating the AHIC from 2027 will not need to complete separate AHIC 'Measure' and 'Plan' requirements for 2026. Their existing farm assurance health and welfare plan requirements will be accepted as meeting this requirement. However, Farm Assured clients will still need to have their Biosecurity Assessment completed and their Farm Assurance Paperwork up to date for 2026.

★ ★ PRODUCTS OF THE MONTH ★ ★



SHEEP ABORTION VACCINES

Just a reminder to get your orders in to protect your flock from the most common causes of sheep abortion. Cevac Chlamydia should be given at least 4 weeks before tupping to protect against Enzootic Abortion, but if you buy ewes too late for this, there is another vaccine Inmeva that can be given after tupping. Toxovax must be given at least 3 weeks before mating to protect against Toxoplasma.

Please call if you need any advice on using these vaccines.



FERAPPEASE OFFER

Ferappeace is a synthetic pheromone which has been developed to reduce stress in cattle. Stress in cattle can lead to other significant diseases such as pneumonia and can affect growth rates. Our clients have reported and taken videos of some excellent results using this product on suckler calves (and cows) at weaning; giving it to bought-in calves on arrival; using it on cows that don't want to take their calves and at castration and dehorning. They have reported that the animals are more settled, keep eating- and in the case of cows they have immediately taken to calves that they haven't wanted before treatment. For any new user we have £10 vouchers off a full bottle of the product. We are also able to dispense small amounts for those who want to try it on smaller numbers. A 300 ml bottle will dose 30 adult cows or 60 calves.



Saturday
12th
September
2026



Come and join us-
Trade Stand
no. E58
(opposite the
cattle lines)
We'll be serving
our usual
refreshments



ARE YOU BUYING SHEEP IN? THINK ZOLVIX

- Use as a quarantine dose for incoming stock to protect against resistance
- Removes all worms, even those resistant to other wormers
- Use as a mid-late season break dose for lambs to achieve growth potential



REMINDER: PLEASE PHONE 24 HOURS AHEAD WHEN ORDERING MEDICATION.

ALL REQUESTS FOR PRESCRIPTION ONLY MEDICINES MUST BE APPROVED BY A VET SO THIS WILL ENSURE YOUR ORDER IS READY FOR COLLECTION WHEN YOU ARRIVE.

