



>>> FARM FIRST VETS NEWSLETTER <<<

AUGUST 2026



Ram MOT's- **Book Now for Pre-Tupping Checks**

A fertile, sound ram is essential for a tight, productive lambing season. We recommend Ram MOTs 6–8 weeks before tupping to allow time to address any issues.

Your Ram MOT includes:

- ☐ Body condition scoring
- ☐ Feet, legs, and mobility assessment
- ☐ Testicle size, tone, symmetry
- ☐ Checks for epididymitis and scrotal abnormalities
- ☐ Teeth and mouth condition
- ☐ Parasite control planning
- ☐ Basic or full semen testing



A single subfertile ram can reduce scanning percentages and extend lambing periods — early checks protect flock performance. **Our basic ram tests cost £49.66 + VAT for the first one, and £44.06 for additional rams.**

Farming Connect funding could be used for these assessments for welsh farms

Seasonal Vaccination Reminders

Enzootic & Toxoplasmosis Abortion Vaccines



Vaccinate replacements at least 4 weeks before tupping.

Enzootic Abortion (EAE):

- ☐ Single dose, longlasting protection
- ☐ Essential for bought in replacements or flocks with previous abortion storms

Toxoplasmosis:

- ☐ Prevents early embryonic loss, barren ewes, weak lambs, and abortion
- ☐ One dose protects for at least 2 lambing seasons.

Pasteurella & Clostridial Disease Protect Youngstock

Pasteurella pneumonia risk increases with handling, weaning, transport, and weather changes.



Key points:

- ☐ Lambs will have lost any immunity that they got from colostrum, so protect your lambs with Ovivac-P Plus before the high-risk Autumn period. Lambs must complete their primary course- 2 doses 4-6 weeks apart.
 - ☐ For Breeding ewes and replacement ewe lambs use Heptavac -P Plus. Protect them now before the high-risk autumn period and boost vaccine 4–6 weeks pre-lambing
 - ☐ Outbreaks can be rapid and fatal — prevention is far more effective than treatment.
- Animals in poor condition or with mineral deficiencies will be unable to make a good response to vaccines, so ensure that they are in good health before they are vaccinated.
- Check mineral status and parasite status if they are not thriving as they should.

**Saturday
12th
September
2026**



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



Babesiosis in Cattle

In recent weeks APHA have been made aware of several reports of Babesiosis affecting cattle in areas of GB not typically associated with this disease.

This tick-borne disease is typically diagnosed in Southwest England with herds seeing cases each year. However, this year practitioners in North east England have reported seeing sporadic cases. Colleagues in SRUC have also reported cases in South west Scotland.

APHA are continuing to offer free PCR testing of cattle for suspected cases of bovine babesiosis and/or tick-borne fever, on a case-by-case basis. Up to 3 cattle showing typical clinical signs can be tested under this scheme.

Key Signs in UK Cattle (*Babesia divergens*):

- ❑ **Red or dark urine:** Caused by the destruction of red blood cells (haemoglobinuria), giving the disease its common name, **Redwater Fever**.
- ❑ **High fever:** Can exceed $\geq 40^{\circ}\text{C}$.
- ❑ **Anaemia and jaundice:** Pale or yellowish mucous membranes (eyes and gums).
- ❑ **Digestive and behavioural issues:** Lethargy, loss of appetite, and distinct & quot pipe-stem & quot diarrhoea, which can progress rapidly to dehydration and recumbency.

If you are concerned that you may have this disease in your stock, please get in touch.

Product of the Month



FerAppease
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FerAppease reduces stress and its associated negative effects in cattle of all ages through a topical application. **It promotes performance and profitability.**

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Summer Mastitis remains a significant risk for dry cows and pregnant heifers during July–September, especially in warm, humid weather. With fly numbers peaking the risk of disease is increasing. If possible, move cattle from wooded, low lying areas and use fly control.

Upcoming Meetings

Tuesday 25th August at 11am to 2pm Beef Club- Compact Calving and It's Benefits in Beef

Join us for our very first on-farm Beef Club meeting to find out how tighter calving periods can benefit your farm, practical tips to achieving this and how to prepare for the breeding season ahead.

Location: Dairy Farm, Penrhos, Raglan NP15 2DF- kindly hosted by the Phillips family.

Lunch provided- Sponsored by Ceva. Please phone the surgery to book your place 01873 840167

