



SEPTEMBER 2025

Arwain DGC Vet and Farmer Awards

We are delighted that Farm First Vets was associated with 2 of the 3 awards presented at the Royal Welsh Show on 23rd July this year. The annual awards celebrate the achievements of livestock veterinarians and livestock farmers in reducing the need for antibiotics and taking steps to improve animal health.



Beef farmer Tony Watkins won the **Livestock Farmer of the Year** award and has taken a very proactive approach to reducing antibiotic use, resulting in an exceptional 92% reduction at Upper House Farm. As part of the Wales-wide network of Arwain DGC “Proof of Concept” farms, Tony and his family took the opportunity to access expert advice and undertake improvements to the farm’s livestock buildings to increase air quality and airflow.



Additionally, the Watkins family has been inspired to trial additional shed monitoring equipment, enabling them to make better-informed decisions to safeguard animal health when housed, reduce pathogen exposure, enhance welfare, and reduce disease incidence.

Among the first Veterinary Prescribing Champions, vet Jane Anscombe won the **Livestock Vet of the Year** award for working diligently to raise Farm First Vets’ prescribing and dispensing standards. She has also played an active role in the Veterinary Prescribing Champion network, being part of the team that created the clinical guidelines for use by other farm vets in Wales.

New In House Test for Haemonchus (Barber’s Pole Worm)

APHA reported that July 2025 has seen almost double the number of haemonchus cases diagnosed by the APHA surveillance network compared to 2024. The most likely explanation is the suitable weather conditions for this parasite.

Our in-house Ovacyte machine can now carry further identification of worm eggs using AI, to detect whether a high worm egg count is due to Haemonchus, and we can report this result within hours. This means that the information required to decide which product to use to effectively treat the sheep is available on the same day samples are submitted.

Clinical signs of Haemonchus include pale mucous membranes, bottle jaw, weight loss, lethargy and sudden death. If you see any of these signs in your sheep, please discuss with a vet and we can add on the extra test if a high worm egg count is detected. (NB liver fluke can also cause many of these signs, which we can also test for at the same time).

Product of the Month: Leucillin Antiseptic Spray

Eye problems can be very common on farms, particularly through the summer months when dust, flies and the seasonal challenges all play their part. Leucillin is a quick, cost effective and safe solution which makes all the difference in keeping animals comfortable and potentially mitigating knock-on losses.

This product is safe to apply directly into the eye. Using Leucillin as part of your eye care protocol soothes irritation and inflammation, killing pathogens and supporting recovery often without resorting to antibiotics, therefore reducing resistance concerns.

Leucillin can be used in organic livestock systems, it is suitable for all farms, whether managing cattle, sheep, goats or poultry. Leucillin is not classed as a medicine, there are no COSHH requirements or over-dosing concerns. Good results have been reported on farms and clients have reported it’s easy, safe and effective to use.



New Bluetongue Rules

From 12 noon on 21st September 2025, some movement restrictions will be eased for all animals vaccinated against Bluetongue Virus Serotype 3 (BTV-3) moving from the restricted zone into Wales. This change follows requests from the livestock industry and aims to support its operations while maintaining disease control.

- **Animals that have completed a primary vaccination scheme with any BTV-3 vaccine as per the product information datasheet and show no signs of illness can move into Wales without a pre-movement test**, under the conditions of a general licence. Vaccination for animals moving under authority of this licence must have been reported at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/report-your-use-of-the-bluetongue-serotype-3-btv-3-vaccine>. The general licence will permit any vaccinated animal to move from the restricted zone to Wales to live. This includes farm-to-farm, via markets, and from shows or collection centres.
- **Animals going to slaughter** can continue to move under the current general licence, but slaughterhouses will no longer need to be designated after 21st September.
- **Non-vaccinated animals** will still need a **negative pre-movement test**, and a specific licence from APHA
- **Animals which test positive for Bluetongue or are tested in a batch in which one or more animals test positive for Bluetongue cannot move to Wales.** Keepers have the option to either pre-movement test again after 30 days or vaccinate the animals.

For more information please visit the Welsh Government website.

FerAppease®

FerAppease® is a synthetic version of the naturally occurring pheromone known as Maternal Bovine Appeasing Substance (mBAS). Applied as a liquid to the skin around the muzzle and poll (back of the head) of young cattle. FerAppease should be used whenever cattle are exposed to husbandry procedures that could cause stress, including weaning, dehorning, castration, vaccination and transportation. The topical treatment lasts about 2 weeks.



FerAppease®
MATERNAL BOVINE APPEASING SUBSTANCE

- *For adult animals: Apply 5ml of FerAppease® to the nuchal skin and a second 5ml application to the skin above the muzzle.*
- *For youngstock: Apply 2.5ml of FerAppease® to the nuchal skin and a second 2.5ml application to the skin above the muzzle.*

No withdrawal period. The reduction in stress leads to calmer animals, improved feed intake, and better growth rates. By decreasing stress hormones and promoting a better immune response, FerAppease can also lower inflammation, reduce the incidence of disease, and improve overall cattle health, welfare, and profitability.

Charity Sports Day

On 3rd September we completed the length of Wales (170 miles) on a treadmill, rowing machine and bike, to raise money for Alzheimer's Society as part of the 20th anniversary celebrations of XLVets. Thank you to everyone who helped us reach our goal. If you would like to donate please call in to the practice or go to our [Just Giving Page](#).



Usk Show

We look forward to seeing many of you at Usk Show on Saturday 13th September. Please come and find us in our usual spot near the livestock lines. We will have plenty of refreshments and a spot to sit down for a while. You are all very welcome to call in for a chat and a cuppa (or something stronger!).



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Protect the future



REMINDER



Autumn is almost with us, don't forget to order your Cevac Chlamydia boosters and Calf Pneumonia vaccines. Give us a call or speak to your lead vet to discuss your options.

Upcoming Meetings

Tuesday 16th September 7pm - The Viral Lockdown: BVD Edition

Discussing BVD, its impact and the new rules coming into Wales.

Monmouthshire Livestock Market, NP15 2BH

Kindly sponsored by Boehringer. Please phone the office on 01873 840167 to book.

