



# »» FARM FIRST VETS NEWSLETTER ««

## JULY 2026



### COMPULSORY BVD CYMRU RULES

**COME INTO EFFECT FROM 1<sup>ST</sup> JULY 2026**

Under the **BVD Cymru Eradication Scheme**, all cattle keepers in Wales must complete an annual BVD herd screening with their vet. Herds classed as "Not Negative" face strict movement restrictions and must identify and isolate or cull Persistently Infected (PI) animals.

#### Mandatory Annual Screening

- The Screen: Keepers must test 5 unvaccinated homebred youngstock (aged 9-18 months) from each management group.
- If you do not have animals in this exact age range, your vet can determine the most suitable alternative screening group.

#### Herd Statuses & Rules

- Negative Status: If all 5 animals test negative, your herd is certified BVD Negative. Stock can be moved off the holding without further BVD testing until your next annual screen. Cattle can move on to the holding but depending on the source may require testing after the movement.
- Not Negative Status: If the test detects antibodies, your herd is "Not Negative". You will then be required to conduct a "PI hunt"—testing every animal in your herd to identify any Persistently Infected (PI) animals.
- **All calves born on a 'Not Negative' holding require to be tissue tag & tested with it's official ID tag by 20 days of age and this continues until 12 months after the herd regains Negative status.**

#### Movement and PI Rules

- Pre-movement Tests: If your herd is Not Negative, any animal moved off-holding must pass a negative antigen/PCR test by a vet within 60 days of the move. This testing is not required if animals are going direct to slaughter.
- PI Animals: Persistently Infected animals can never move off the holding except to slaughter. They must be strictly isolated from the rest of the herd.

#### Purchasing Stock

- Buying In: If you purchase cattle from a Welsh BVD Negative herd, there are no additional BVD requirements.
- Risk Warnings: If you buy cattle from a "Not Negative" herd, they must have had a valid negative pre-movement test within the last 60 days. Receiving untested cattle from a Not Negative herd risks compromising your own herd's status.
- If purchasing stock from an unknown status i.e. from an English holding, they will require a Post Movement test within 20 days of arriving on your holding. This rule applies whether you are a "negative" or "non negative" herd.

For more information please visit:

<https://www.gov.wales/guidance-farmers-complying-bovine-viral-diarrhoea-legislation-wales>

There are still aspects of the scheme that are awaiting clarification, so we may not be able to answer every question immediately. However, if you have any queries, please give us a call and we will do our best to help.



**FARMING**  
connect  
cyswllt  
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Another plea for all Welsh clients to re-register with Farming Connect, as there is funding available for veterinary testing and advice, as well as free access to our NADIS workshops and 80 % funding for courses such as Mastering Medicines.  
**If you are struggling to re-register please get in touch with Lisa Powell on 07772 694952.**

## SUSTAINABLE FARMING SCHEME- ARE YOU REGISTERED?



If you have signed up for the SFS scheme please let us know so we can add you to our list to ensure we start the process and make sure the necessary steps are completed on time.

**PRODUCTS OF THE MONTH**  
**SPOTINOR & ECTOFLY**

We stock convenient pour on products for prevention & treatment of fly control for your cattle and sheep.

Please give us a call for further information.



## DEATH OF YOUNG LAMBS FOLLOWING INHALATION OF MINERAL DRENCHES

Mineral and anthelmintic drenches are routine treatments used on many farms. If not administered correctly, they can lead to injuries and death. Lamb death caused by mineral drench inhalation was recently diagnosed in the SRUC Dumfries postmortem room in May. The diagnosis has become a regular feature of late spring and early summer in recent years, and it is usually seen in six to eight-week-old lambs that are affected following handling for multiple management tasks. These can include administration of anthelmintic and mineral drenches, clostridial and/or orf vaccination, tagging, castration/tailing and application of treatments for tick/fly control. Lambs that inhale mineral drench (or any other liquid) into their lungs can gasp and struggle for breath and die very rapidly within 15 to 30 minutes of being handled. Others will die over the next 24 to 48 hours and losses can run into double figures. Correct drench administration is key to reducing the risk of inhalation occurring.

In older lambs and ewes, traumatic injuries from the drench gun are not uncommon and can lead to ill thrift and death due to subsequent pain and infection.

**Administration** Ensure your drench gun is in good working order, checking to ensure there are no sharp/burred edges that could damage the mouth. The nozzle should be the correct length for the size of the animal. Also ensure the drench gun is calibrated correctly and is delivering the right amount before you start drenching. Drenching guns should be well maintained and replaced regularly.

Drenching with the correct technique is vital. Firstly, ensure that the sheep is adequately restrained and not able to leap around to reduce risk of injury.

Insert the nozzle in the corner of the mouth between molars and incisors. The nozzle should be resting over the back of the tongue. Do not force the nozzle as tissues at the back of the mouth are easily damaged.



### STAFF NEWS

We are sorry to say that our part-time receptionist Eleanor Werrett has moved away and has found a similar role at a Doctor's surgery. We would like to thank her for all her hard work and excellent design work on our newsletters and posters. We wish her all the best in her new job.

We would also like to welcome Isabelle Garrett to the reception team, who will be working part-time covering maternity leave. Isabelle is a keen member of Wentwood YFC and will be competing at the Royal Welsh in the stock judging competition. She also works as a personal fitness trainer so hopefully she will whip us into shape!



## CLIENT MEETINGS

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July- **NADIS Flock Fertility Management**

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> July- **NADIS Disease Management in cattle through Vaccination**

Both meetings start at 7pm at Monmouthshire Livestock Market, NP15 2BH.

All attendees **MUST** have re-registered with Farming Connect in 2026

