

Fenton Vets

September 2026

Bluetongue has hit Pembrokeshire

BTV-3 has been confirmed in the county and looks to be spreading quickly. Vaccination remains the best way to reduce risk to your flock or herd, despite a 3 week lag time from vaccination to achieving optimal immunity. Vaccine supply has, as many of you are aware, been problematic. We are working hard to secure supply as soon as it becomes available

If you suspect Bluetongue in your stock: call us! BTV remains notifiable, but there are no restrictions placed on your premises. It does not affect humans. Treatment of affected animals is limited as it is a virus. Hydration is important as disease affects the kidneys. Anti-inflammatories are also recommended - get in touch to discuss appropriate doses



Bluetongue in cattle

Know the signs

Bluetongue serotype 3 (BTV-3) is circulating on the eastern side of England. The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) and Defra have declared bluetongue zones spanning several counties to help control further spread of the disease. You can find out more and check whether you are in a bluetongue zone by visiting gov.uk/bluetongue.

Bluetongue is a notifiable disease and must be reported by law. You are not permitted to move any animal showing these clinical signs and if you see any of these signs you must report it to APHA.

Clinical signs to look out for in cattle

- lethargy
- crusting and erosions around the nostrils and muzzle
- conjunctivitis and excessive tear staining
- redness of the mouth, eyes, nose
- reddening of the skin above the hoof and between the cloats
- nasal discharge
- reddening and erosions on the teats
- fever
- milk drop
- not eating
- abortion, foetal deformities and stillbirths

Adult cattle may be infectious for several weeks while showing little or no sign of disease. They are often the preferred host for biting midges (the vector of bluetongue virus).

Clinical signs in calves

Calves can become infected with bluetongue virus before birth if the mother is infected while pregnant. Signs of infection include:

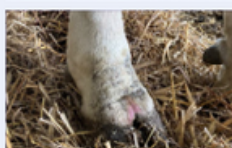
- calves born small, weak, deformed or blind
- death of calves within a few days of birth
- stillbirths

Find out more information and how to report bluetongue by visiting www.gov.uk/bluetongue



Reddening and erosions on the teats

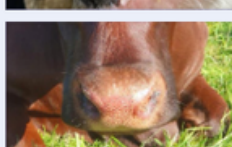
© A. Allan



Red interdigital cleft



Ulceration in nostrils



Crusting around nostril

© A. Allan



Bluetongue in sheep

Know the signs

Bluetongue serotype 3 (BTV-3) is circulating on the eastern side of England. The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) and Defra have declared bluetongue zones spanning several counties to help control further spread of the disease. You can find out more and check whether you are in a bluetongue zone by visiting gov.uk/bluetongue.

Bluetongue is a notifiable disease and must be reported by law. You are not permitted to move any animal showing these clinical signs and if you see any of these signs you must report it to APHA.

Clinical signs to look out for in sheep

- ulcers or sores in the mouth and nose
- discharge from the eyes or nose and drooling from the mouth
- swelling of the lips, tongue, head and neck
- heat and tenderness at the coronary band (where the skin of the leg meets the horn of the foot)

Other clinical signs include:

- inappetence and weight loss
- red skin as a result of blood collecting beneath the surface
- fever
- lameness and reluctance to move
- breathing problems
- abortion, foetal deformities and stillbirths
- death

In lambs

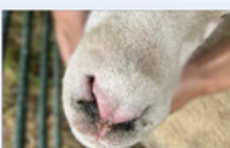
Lambs can become infected with bluetongue virus before birth if the dam is infected while pregnant. Signs of infection include:

- lambs born small, weak, deformed or blind
- death of lambs within a few days of birth
- stillbirths

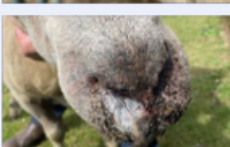
Find out more information and how to report bluetongue by visiting www.gov.uk/bluetongue



Ulcers and lesions in the mouth



Nasal redness



Nasal discharge



Recumbent animal

Fenton Vets is a trading name of Fenton Veterinary Practice Ltd, a company registered in England & Wales. Registered office 21 Portfield, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire SA61 1BN



CCN (Cerebrocortical Necrosis)

A non-infectious neurological disease, caused by Thiamine (vitamin B1) deficiency.

Ruminants normally produce thiamine in their rumens. However, low fibre, high concentrate diets disrupt this process. Another risk factor is plants containing thiaminase eg. Bracken, as these can also alter normal absorption of thiamine resulting in disease.

Lack of forage this season is causing low fibre intakes and hedge row eating, making CCN more of a concern

Typical Presentation

Symptoms include dullness, head pressing, blindness, eye twitching and star gazing. These can progress rapidly to recumbency, paddling, coma and death

Key takeaways

- Provide a high fibre diet to maintain good rumen health
- Early diagnosis is essential for improving treatment outcome
- If you suspect a case, call us!



Fenton Vets

As the weather finally begins to change, join us for a talk centred around calf respiratory disease. With the weather this autumn potentially being more extreme, calf pneumonia could become a big problem. Hosted by Zoetis the talk will focus on mycoplasma and its role in calf pneumonia. Jack will also discuss preliminary data from an ongoing trial on a local dairy farm involving the mycoplasma vaccine

18:30 on 28th September @ Pelcomb Inn

Refreshments provided
Please RSVP on 01437 762511



Thanks for coming to see us at the shows!

We had a great time chewing the fat with the best farmers in Pembrokeshire! We are proud to be part of the farming community and to provide independent veterinary services whenever you need us. See you at the stand next year...



Fenton Vets is a trading name of Fenton Veterinary Practice Ltd, a company registered in England & Wales. Registered office 21 Portfield, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire SA61 1BN

