

July 2025 NEWSLETTER



Summer Social: BBQ & Quiz

Wednesday 9th July 2025, BBQ from 6:30pm, Quiz to start at 7pm

Westhills Farm, NE65 7XF

Quiz raising funds for Yellow Wellies, suggested donation £5 per team

For catering purposes, please RSVP to the practice on 01669 838288
or emailing emili.ch@bsfh.co.uk



Bluetongue Update

The BTV restriction zone was extended to encompass all of England on 1st July. This means that movements within England can be carried out without pre- and post- movement testing, but imposes restrictions on movements between England and Scotland or Wales.

Movement Controls into Scotland: **Movement to slaughter**

No testing required but movements must be direct to a slaughterhouse and must meet requirements of the general licence.

Movement Controls into Scotland: **Movement to live**

Pre-movement testing ruminants (cattle, sheep and goats) moving from England into Scotland within 7 calendar days of the move is now required.

Cattle can move out of the restriction zone without a pre-movement test if it has been >21days since they received a complete course of Bultavo vaccination. Cattle vaccinated with other BTV vaccines, and all other ruminants, are still subject to pre-movement testing.

Thinking Ahead to Selling at Kelso & Builth Wells

With the updated rules regarding movement of animals from the restriction zone (England) into Scotland and Wales, tups going from England to Kelso tup sales will require a movement licence issued by APHA including a pre-movement blood test. The cost of testing is no longer subsidised and must be covered by the animal keeper.

The blood test result is valid for 7 calendar days after sample collection. The bloods are sent to APHA for testing and results take at least 3 working days to process; please note that samples are not tested during weekends or bank holidays so this will cause a delay in receiving results.

Kelso Ram Sales are to be held on Friday 12th September, with tups being moved the day before. **This means pre-Kelso BTV blood testing should be carried out on Thursday 4th or Friday 5th September in order to get results in time.**

For anyone who makes the journey down to Wales, Builth Wells Sales are to be held on Monday 22nd September, so **pre-movement testing should be carried out on Monday 15th September to get results in time.**

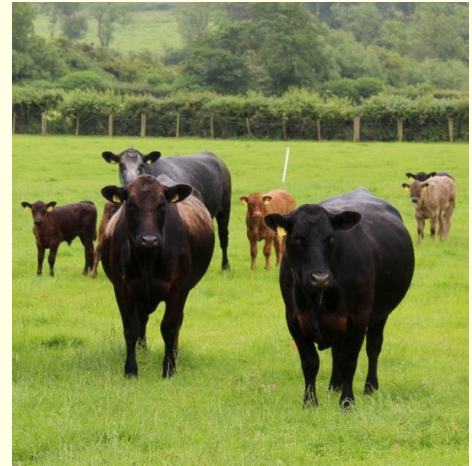
The bluetongue situation is everchanging; please get in touch with any queries!

A Good News Story; Net Zero Beef

Thank you to vet student, Hannah Williams from Aberystwyth/RVC, for summarising the report for us!

A recently published report, outlining the findings from a McDonalds funded Grazing Project, is a good news story for UK beef production. The suckler beef enterprise was completely offset by pasture carbon sequestration.

The project, spanning from 2020-2023, aimed to look at the impact of adaptive multi-paddock (AMP) grazing on improving beef sustainability. Adaptive multi-paddock grazing mimics grazing patterns of wild cattle – high density grazing over a short period, with longer rest periods in-between. AMP grazing allowed this farm to out-winter their suckler herd; they were self sufficient for feed and had minimal bedding costs.



Key take aways from the report:

- Use of AMP grazing and outwintering allowed a suckler system to achieve beyond net zero carbon!
- The altered grazing patterns improved soil structure, improved water infiltration rates, reduced surface run off and better drought resilience. There was also increased earth-worm presence and improved wildlife biodiversity.
- Due to self-sufficiency, feed and variable costs savings for the suckler cows was £60.56/cow put to the bull. Some AHDB data puts savings higher than this figure.
- Outwintering saved them £1.37/cow/day equalling £205.50/cow over a 150-day winter. Some AHDB data puts savings higher than this figure.
- Carcase grades of calves finished on grass varied more, but average finishing time reduced from 26 months to 23 months and DLWG increased from 0.76 kg/day to 0.81 kg/day average.
- Antibiotic use decreased– less respiratory disease in the absence of housing.
- An interesting aside... At the start of the project, the study farm was noticing an increase in their fly population and suffering from New Forest Eye cases in the cattle. At the time, the cattle were co-grazing with the sheep, which were being regularly treated with ectoparasiticides. After the sheep were sold from the farm a year into the study, the number of NFE cases in the cattle decreased. The study linked the use of parasiticides in the sheep, and the harm they cause the dung beetle population, to an increased fly population on farm, and therefore, a greater problem with New Forest Eye.

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