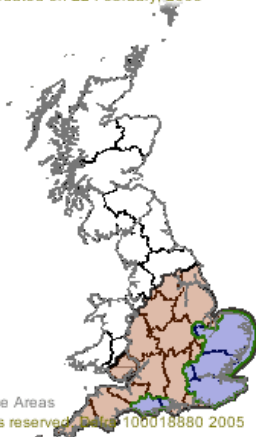


Blue Tongue and Vaccination

Restriction information last updated on 22 February, 2008



Animal Health Divisional Office Areas
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Robert Ankcorn, livestock veterinary adviser for Intervet, gave comprehensive talk on Bluetongue to a well attended client meeting last week. It was soon clear that vaccination will be the only practical way of trying to limit the welfare and economic losses associated with the disease.

The Government has ordered 22.5 million doses of the vaccine from Intervet which will then be distributed through veterinary practices.

Vaccination will be voluntary but to be effective 80% of domestic species susceptible to Bluetongue need to be vaccinated. Farmers will be allowed to vaccinate their own animals unless the animals are to be exported for intra-community trade. In this case vaccination must be carried out by a vet and supported by a certificate. Vaccination must be recorded at the flock or herd level on each premises,

unless animals are to be moved out of the protection zone, in which case their individual numbers must be recorded accurately at the time of vaccination.

EU legislation permits vaccination only in a protection zone, so will not happen initially in our area until the current zones change.

Sheep will require one dose of vaccine as a primary course while cattle will require two doses 3-4 weeks apart. A single booster vaccination will be required on an annual basis should it be decided to continue with the vaccination programme.

We are currently compiling a list at the Farm Office of farmer's vaccine requirements. It may be that the vaccine will be in short supply so get your order in now as it will be first ordered first supplied!



Correct use of Orbeseal:

Many Dairy farmers have seen the benefit of Orbeseal in reducing the number of dry period infections and clinical mastitis in subsequent lactations. To maximize this benefit make sure the following steps are taken.

- Wear clean gloves and set time aside to dry cows off.
- Prepare teats thoroughly including wiping the teat ends with surgical spirit.
- When infusing Orbeseal pinch the top of the teat barrel to keep it in the bottom of the teat- see picture.
- Post dip after infusing.
- After calving remove Orbeseal by vigorously stripping before the first milking.



Farm Office News:

We are pleased to welcome Emma Langridge to the Farm Office joining Anna and Margaret. Emma is rapidly finding her feet and learning where everything is, as well as mastering the computer system (no mean feat!!)