



Bluetongue

In view of the serious outbreak of BTV8 in the second half of 2008, we would strongly recommend that you vaccinate all susceptible livestock this year despite the fact that no active circulation of virus was detected in the UK in 2008 (all virus positive cases were imported).

This season we are able to vaccinate before turnout but planning is required as Bluetongue vaccines must be given at least two weeks before or after any other vaccine e.g. Leptavoid or Heptavac.

The French and the Scots have advised that vaccination should be completed by 30th April, as the high risk period is certainly later in the year.

Early lambs and fatstock that are going to be killed before the end of June are the lowest risk animals and probably do not need to be vaccinated, however all other cattle and sheep will need to be vaccinated.

We do not anticipate any problems in supply of the vaccine this year and there are now three Bluetongue vaccines on the market (only two can be used on sheep).

Significantly, one of the products (Zulvac) can be given intramuscularly to cattle, making the procedure quicker and easier. Please note that this product can only be given to calves over ten weeks of age.

The costs of the respective products are:

Bovilis BTV 8	50ml (50 dose)	£30.00	(60p/dose)
(Cattle and Sheep)	20ml (20 dose)	£17.00	(85p/dose)

Zulvac Bovis	100 ml (50 dose)	£30.00	(60p/dose)
(Cattle only)	20ml (10 dose)	£ 8.50	(85p/dose)

These prices are exclusive of VAT and remain the same as last year.

Practice News

As from the beginning of February, the farm department is finally back to full strength with our latest arrival:

Nanja, living in Poynings,
Sophie in Hurstpierpoint,
Andrew in Laughton,
Bill Pepper in Lewes

Leptospirosis Vaccine

We are fixing the cost of Leptavoid for another year at **£81.48 (ex VAT) per 50ml (£3.24/dose)**. This remains the preferred product for protection against UK strains and boosters should be given to breeding cattle before turnout as the high risk period is during the grazing season.

If you wish to discuss these issues, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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