



Bluetongue

Is a disease of animals affecting all ruminants. Although sheep are most severely affected, cattle are the main mammalian reservoir of the virus. The Blue Tongue virus is transmitted between its mammalian hosts primarily via the bites of certain midges (*Culicoides* species). There are in total 47 different species of *Culicoides* but only a few are able to carry the disease. Some of these species form part of the indigenous insect population of the British Isles. The population of *Culicoides* fluctuate but peak in May/June and September/October. Their daily activity peaks at dawn and dusk and the species indigenous to the British Isles breed around animal dung.

In 2006 Europe experienced a major outbreak of Blue Tongue Disease Serotype which has continued through 2007. With a peak of approximately 300 cases a week being confirmed.

On 22nd September 2007, the first case of Blue Tongue was confirmed in East Anglia. An epidemiological investigation resulted and on the 28th September it was confirmed that the disease was circulating in the local animal and midge population in East Anglia. Movement controls to try and contain the disease were introduced.

With all types of Disease Control different zones are now used to control movements.

These are based on epidemiology studies of the disease and risks associated with spread.

Control Zone is at least 20 kms radius around an infected premises.

Protection Zone is at least 100 kms radius around an infected premises.

Surveillance Zone is at least 50 kms radius beyond the Protection Zone. Permissible movements differ between the zones.

The outer boundary of the Surveillance Zone runs along the length of the Wales/England border with exceptions around Chester, Oswestry and the Seven Crossing.

For a farm straddling the S.Z. border, the whole of the holding is classed as being in the Zone.

At the time of writing the following movements can take place.

There are no restrictions on movements within Wales or to Scotland. Moves can also be made into England if the movement does not cross into the S.Z.

A movement from Wales into and out of the Zone is permitted under a General Licence. However the conditions of the movement vary according to the final destination

All other movements into the Zone for rearing/slaughter/wintering are permissible, again under the conditions of a General Licence.

No movements are allowed out of the Zones into clean areas except for controlled movements into approved Slaughterhouses.

To remain vigilant for Bluetongue you should inspect your stock regu-



Culicoides

larly, focusing on the mucous lining (mouth and nose) and the coronary band.

If you suspect one of your animals is affected it is vital to report it as early as possible.

Clinical signs of illness are:-

Nasal Discharge / Conjunctivitis/Swollen Teats/Drooling/Swelling of head and neck / Swelling and ulceration of the mouth / Tiredness / Lameness / High body temperature / Respiratory problems

It is possible that cattle will show no clinical signs

To obtain further details on licensing, disease spread or disease facts see

www.defra.gov.uk

<http://new.wales.gov.uk>

Or

Animal Health 01286 674144

Trading Standards 01978 813767

Help Us Stamp Out Animal Cruelty And Improve Welfare

The Animal Welfare Act 2006 came into force in Wales on 27th March 2007. This Act consolidates existing legislation and it is still against the law to be cruel to an animal. The new requirements in this law make it a legal obligation to ensure that all the welfare needs of animals are met

The new law makes owners and keepers responsible for ensuring that the welfare needs of animals are met, these include

- A suitable environment (place to live)
- A suitable diet
- To exhibit normal behaviour patterns
- To be housed with or apart from, other animals (if applicable)
- To be protected from pain,

injury, suffering and disease

The new law also increases to 16 the minimum age which a person can buy an animal and prohibits giving animals as prizes to unaccompanied children under this age.

Anyone who is cruel to an animal, or does not provide for its welfare needs maybe banned from owning animals, fined up to £20,000 and/or sent to prison.

This new law helps us act sooner to prevent cruelty and improve welfare. We rely on you, the ears and eyes of the agricultural community to contact us if you suspect or believe anyone is either being cruel or not tending to the needs of their livestock. If you have any concerns about animal welfare in the area please contact our helpdesk on 01978 813774, all calls will be dealt with in the strictest confidence.



Farm Fallen Stock



2003 saw the introduction of the Animal By-Products (Wales) Regulations. These regulations cover all aspects of storage, transport and disposal of animal by-products. From the introduction of these regulations it became unlawful for farmers to bury stock.

During the 2007 outbreak of Foot & Mouth, permission was given during the early period of disease control for fallen stock to be buried. This has since been removed and fallen stock once again has to be disposed of by the correct routes. Discussions with Fallen Stock Collectors suggest that the number of carcasses collected in 2007 is on average one third down on collections made in 2006.

This reduction could be for various reasons, but Officers when conducting farm inspections will be paying particular attention to disposal routes of fallen stock

Transport of Animals

The introduction of the new animal transport legislation in March 2007 saw a number of major changes. Authorisation is now needed by those transporting animals over 65kms as part of an economic activity. The Authorisation is split into two types. Type 1 being for short

journeys that are over 65 kms and up to and including 8 hours duration. Type 2 is for a long journey, which covers journeys over 8 hours and the type 1.

Farmers carrying their own stock will require an Authorisation.

Application forms for Authorisa-

tion can be obtained from Welfare in Transport Team 0845 603 8395 or online at www.defra.gov.uk/animal/welfare

The second major change—from the 5th January 2008 regulations require that any person including farmers, involved in transporting

Transport of Animals (cont.)

animals over 65 kms (extended to 1st April 2008 due to disease outbreaks) in connection with an economic activity must be trained in the relevant parts of the legislation and obtain a Certificate of Competence.

There are no Grandfather Rights and the type of competency required is again dependant on the journey length.

Training and assessment is available in various agricultural colleges throughout north east Wales. There are charges for the

training and assessment, but if you are registered with LANTRA some reductions will apply.

Two colleges in this area that are offering such training are:-



The driver of this vehicle obviously hasn't had his training yet!!

Coleg Llysfasi

Ruthin

Denbighshire

Telephone 01978 790263

Contacts Lowri Evans or Mair Beech

Or

Welsh College of Horticulture

Northop

Mold

Telephone 01352 841000

Contact Sara Yarnell

Biosecurity

Biosecurity literally means "Safe Life". If you work or come into contact with farm animals, biosecurity means taking steps to make sure that good hygiene practices are in place.

Good biosecurity is a vital part of preventing the spread or introduction of disease. It also helps to improve farm efficiency, protect neighbouring farms and the countryside.

Good Biosecurity Practices

- Be aware of the need for biosecurity
- Make a flock/herd health plan with your vet including isolation premises for new or returning stock
- Keep farm access routes, parking areas, yards and storage areas clean and tidy
- Provide disinfection facilities and make sure visitors use them
- Ensure farm machinery is clean and disinfected especially if sharing with neighbours
- Animal transport should be cleansed and disinfected both inside and out after unloading. This should be done within 24 hours or before the vehicle is used again
- When attending livestock markets/shows, pay particular attention to personal biosecurity. Do not leave the animal area without cleansing and disinfecting any contaminated clothing including footwear.
- When using disinfectant ensure it is approved by DEFRA/Welsh Assembly and that it is used at the correct dilution rates

A good biosecurity routine is always essential not just when there is a major disease outbreak.

Further information can be obtained by contacting

Trading Standards 01978 292045

Or visit Welsh Assembly/DEFRA websites

DON'T TRACK IT BACK



Wrexham Animal Health Enforcement Forum

The Forum was established in 2004 to improve lines of communication between Wrexham Council and the local agricultural community.

The next meeting will be held on 15 November at The Buck Hotel, High Street, Bangor on Dee at 6pm.

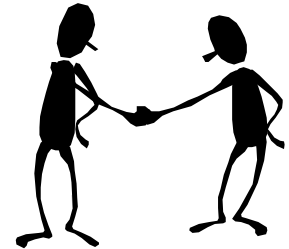
The agenda although not yet confirmed will cover the most

recent legislative changes to Animal Health and Welfare and Transport. Most prominently the effect such changes have on the daily running of your business.

You are invited along to participate in this meeting to ask questions and express your concerns.

If you would like to attend the next Forum meeting you will find a reply form enclosed with the

newsletter. IT MUST BE STRESSED THAT IF YOU INTEND TO TAKE PART IN THE FORUM MEETING, THE REPLY SLIP MUST BE RETURNED BY 9TH NOVEMBER



And Finally.....World economic models explained by cows

SOCIALISM: You have 2 cows, and you give one to your neighbours.

COMMUNISM: You have 2 cows. The State takes both and gives you some milk.

FASCISM: You have 2 cows. The State takes both and sells you some milk.

BUREAUCRATISM: You have 2 cows. The State takes both, shoots one, milks the other, and then throws the milk away.

TRADITIONAL CAPITALISM: You have two cows. You sell one and buy a bull. Your herd multiplies, and the economy grows. You sell them and retire on the income.

SURREALISM: You have two giraffes. The government requires you to take harmonica lessons.

AN AMERICAN CORPORATION: You have two cows. You sell one, and force the other to produce the milk of four cows. Later, you hire a consultant to analyse why the cow has dropped dead.

FRENCH CORPORATION: You have two cows. You go on strike, organize a riot, and block the roads, because you want three cows.

JAPANESE CORPORATION: You have two cows. You redesign them so they are one-tenth the size of an ordinary cow and produce twenty times the milk. You then create a clever cow cartoon image called 'cowkimon' and market it worldwide.

AUSTRALIAN CORPORATION: You have two cows. Business seems pretty good. You close the office and go for a few beers to celebrate.



If you would like a copy of this newsletter in Welsh, please contact the helpdesk on 01978 813774