

# NEW NAME, NEW OFFICE, SAME GREAT SERVICE

It looks like the weather has improved, although it's still variable across the South as some farms still struggle to recover from the wet winter and poor spring.



Welcome to our June newsletter: we have a lot to update you on. This is the first of a quarterly e-news we will email to all our customers.

You may have noticed that in January, we changed our business name to **Ruminant Health Solutions Ltd.** The change follows feedback from several customers who suggested our old name caused some confusion as our vets work with both sheep and cattle farms.

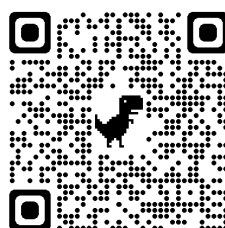
Whilst the name has changed, our commitment to provide top-quality veterinary support and advice alongside exceptional customer service remains the same. Our partnership to supply cost effective prescription medicines direct to your farm, through MossVet Ltd, will continue as before.

In January we opened our new base in Sussex. The office offers more space for our expanding team alongside lab facilities, medicines storage, a meeting room and good parking should you want to visit.



You may have also seen us in the South East Farmer, if not scan the QR code to read.

Find out how we started and how we can continue to help your business grow.



Picture credit: SE Farmer

## DONT FORGET...

We have our own dedicated Ruminant Health phone line, 01403 470998.

You can reach Jess, Practice Manager, during the day or the duty vet after hours.

## UPDATE: Medicine orders

Due to pressures outside our control we ask that all medicine orders are with us before 2.30pm to ensure they can be delivered in the timely manner you are used to.

You can now call orders into the office 01403 470998 or email [office@bovinehealth.co.uk](mailto:office@bovinehealth.co.uk)

## UPDATE: Delivery costs

Please note our delivery charges:

- orders that have vaccines or that require refrigerated delivery are charged at £30 if under £600 (ex VAT)
- ambient orders are charged at £15 if under £400 (ex VAT)

# FREE

# TB Advice

## From the TB Advisory Service

TEL: 01403 470998

EMAIL: [OFFICE@BOVINEHEALTH.CO.UK](mailto:OFFICE@BOVINEHEALTH.CO.UK)



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## Gut Worms

Are you grazing cattle, youngstock or cows? Effective management of parasites is fundamental to optimise herd health: not just to minimise costs but also avoid developing resistance to wormers.

Even at low levels gut worms can reduce weight gain by 30% or milk yield by 2-3L per day. While losses from lungworm or liver fluke can be substantial.

The two most common cattle gut worms are *Ostertagia* and *Cooperia*. Both affect youngstock and adults, with outbreaks common at certain times of the year.

*Ostertagia* live in the abomasum (fourth stomach) damaging the gut wall to cause "parasitic gastritis." This reduces acidity and protein digestion. Two forms of infestation are recognised:

- Type 1 typically affects young grazing cattle in mid-summer.
- Type 2 is seen in the late winter or early spring in cattle that have grazed previously. Signs are usually loss of condition and reduced production in older cattle.

*Cooperia* meanwhile develop in the small intestine where they damage the intestinal lining, leading to poor digestion and nutrient absorption.

Often first grazing youngstock can have both gut worms active concurrently. The combination of poor protein digestion in the abomasum alongside reduced absorption can create significant losses in growth and has been shown to permanently stunt calves.

Immunity: it takes one grazing season for cattle to gain immunity to *Cooperia*, but two seasons for *Ostertagia*. Even then immunity can be incomplete. The impact of poor nutrition or stress, such as calving, increases the risk of older stock being affected.

### How to check for a worm burden:

- Regular weigh to monitor growth rates - shown to be most sensitive, and often the earliest, way of detecting any worm burden.
- FEC - undertaken regularly through the grazing season through at least 10 fresh samples per group. This method is less accurate due to intermittent egg shedding and unequal distribution of worms within a group.
- Blood test (Plasma Pepsinogen) - useful at the end of grazing season to check gutworm exposure since correlates with gut damage.
- Bulk Milk Test - easy, convenient and cost effective for *Ostertagia* levels in the herd.
- Clinical signs - often loose dung, dull coat or reduced condition score or more variability within group.

Lungworm (*Dictyocaulus viviparus*) and liver fluke (*Fasciola hepatica*) will be covered in our next newsletter in time for the autumn high risk period.

Have you had a recent Faecal worm and egg count? Get yours today, for just £20

Worm effectively, responsibly AND sustainably

**YOUR PARTNER FOR A BETTER FUTURE**



**Note-** older cattle can show raised faecal egg counts suggesting adult worms are active, although they may show no outward clinical signs.

### **Control:**

- Grazing strategies - although regular FEC and weighing to monitor growth still advised to avoid unexpected burdens.
- Anthelmintic (treatment) with wormers:
- Strategic seasonal - can be used to minimise pasture contamination.
- Targeted - for the whole group based on FEC or clinical signs.
- Targeted strategic - new approach treating only those animals showing reduced DLWG and monitoring. Shown to allow better development of immunity and reduced risk of resistance.

At housing - clearing the system with no further exposure to larvae from grazing.

Each farm is different, control measures that work for one may not be appropriate for another. Worm control can be affected by farm size, stock numbers and type, management and even soil type. Changes in weather patterns could also change the approach required.

Contact the practice for further information or to help decide on the best approach for your farm.

Speak to your Ruminant Health Solutions Vet to decide on the best approach to control strategies suitable to your farm.

Credit: Oliver Giles MRCVS, Veterinary Surgeon

Picture credit- COWS, Female cooperia roundworm photographed under a microscope





**FREE**  
**TB Advice**  
From the TB Advisory Service





Free on-farm visits or telephone advice service from experienced vets

To find out more please contact us:

W	tbas.org.uk
T	01403 470998
E	office@bovinehealth.co.uk

### The TB Advisory Service

Picture credit :TBAS

TBAS offers FREE, bespoke, practical and cost-effective advice to all eligible farmers in England to help reduce the risks associated with TB. The TBAS has been running for 4 years, initially funded by the Rural Development Program for England (RDPE) the service is now funded through DEFRA. Open to farms across the whole of England having previously only been available to farmers in the high risk or edge areas.

Our vets are TBAS trained and have completed the BCVA Accredited TB Veterinary Advisor BATVA training. Consisting of 2 visits split over 3-6months, the **FREE** service funds:

1. An initial visit where our vet walks farm (including buildings and fields) alongside completing a questionnaire with you to better understand your current situation. Areas for TB risk will be identified through this portion of the visit.
2. At the end of the visit you will agree on four main recommendations you can carry out to help reduce or eliminate the risk of TB for the farm.
3. A follow-up visit to review the program you agreed and discuss next steps.

**Note** - TBAS is entirely free to the farm. The funding allows for interactions and discussions around TB and your stock - our vets are there to help and will not judge you or your farm. There is no penalty for not completing the recommendations.



### Animal Health and Welfare Pathway

Since 2023 dairy farmers have been able to claim **£372** towards a vet visit and review. The only criteria have been you farm in England, have a minimum of 11 or more dairy cattle, and a single business identifier (SBI) linked to a CPH number to register.

Registration is simple (scan QR code at bottom of the page or click **Apply**) with a window of 6 months then open to undertake the review and claim your funding. Contact the practice to discuss your review and book a visit. This can be repeated every 10+ months!

Launching late 2024 - recently announced available once you have completed your initial AHWP visit and testing. An **extra £215** if you have no BVD, or an **additional £1733** for dairy herd where BVD is present in the herd, has been released towards more in-depth diagnostic testing, biosecurity assessment, and how to eliminate disease, such as BVD, from your farm.

**Make a difference today!**

Join the Animal Health & Welfare Pathway and claim your funding - it's a free vet visit alongside health planning and a review. Let's work together to ensure a healthier future for your animals and sustainable farming practices.

**DON'T DELAY, ACT NOW -  
CALL THE OFFICE ON 01403 470998**

**HAVE YOU APPLIED FOR YOUR  
ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE PATHWAY?  
DAIRY FARMERS, YOU CAN CLAIM:**

**£372 PLUS ADDITIONAL FUNDING**

**YOUR PARTNER FOR A BETTER FUTURE**



## Bovine Viral Diarrhea (BVD)

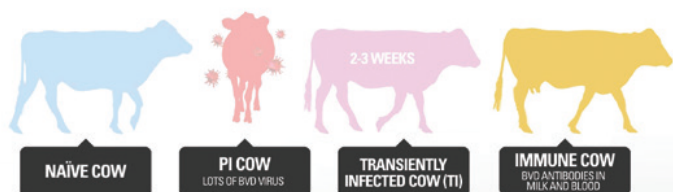
This infection continues to be of a significant concern for dairy farmers: approximately 20% of UK dairy herds are affected by BVD. The impact of BVD can be obvious in some cases but often it is the subclinical disease that sees the biggest economic losses.

In calves, BVD can cause respiratory problems, diarrhoea, and immunosuppression. The risk here is increased susceptibility to other infections resulting in stunted growth, more costs and even increased mortality.

For adult cattle, the disease is associated mostly with reduced fertility, abortions and stillbirths. Infection at a herd level can see reduced milk production alongside raised risk for other problems such as pneumonia and mastitis. There has also been a link established between BVD and TB.

Caused by the infection of the foetus during early pregnancy the biggest risk to a dairy herd is the PI (Persistently Infected) animal. The PI is the primary source of infection as they effectively spread BVD virus throughout their lives. Transmission can occur through direct contact with an infected animal or indirectly with contaminated equipment etc. Some wildlife and even sheep have been implicated as potential vectors for BVD.

### HOW BVD WORKS



Picture Credit: MSD



BVD Free England now has the goal of eradicating BVD from the national herd. This initiative involves testing and monitoring to identify and remove PI animals, alongside vaccination and biosecurity for the farm. Achieving BVD-free status is now mandatory for some milk processors or contracts whilst the benefit towards health and welfare, improved productivity and reduced vet costs should be considered more important. Selling BVD Free accredited stock is now becoming a market opportunity for some herds.

BVD investigations can be linked with your Animal Health and Welfare Pathway (AHWP) funding. Call us anytime to discuss your concerns and plan a meeting to access BVD funding. Together, we can create a healthier, more productive dairy industry.

**Don't wait - take control of your herd's future today!**

Credit: Rob Drysdale MRCVS

**INTRODUCE A FARMER AND  
GET £30 OFF YOUR NEXT  
VETERINARY SERVICE OR  
MEDICINE BILL**

T's & C's apply

1. Farmer must be new to Ruminant Health Solutions under undertake a New client visit (chargeable)
2. Farmer must make the vet visiting aware that they have been recommended Ruminant Health Solutions, and provide referring farmers name and address
3. Can only be redeemed once per farm
4. Valid until 31st August 2024
5. No cash/ other alternative
6. If all the above are satisfied, the credit will appear in the following months invoice