



April 2025

Dairy Herdsperson Course

Due to our sold-out 2024 course, Castle Vets is again running a dairy herdsperson course in 2025!
Attend six tailored sessions on Dairy cow and calf health, to gain your Herdsperson certification.

This course will be run over summer 2025, with sessions held 10:30am-2:30pm, at roughly two-weekly intervals. All sessions will be on local farms and made up of theory and practical components.



- Triaging + treating the sick cow – 3rd June (Tues)
- Managing + preventing lameness – 9th June (Mon)
- Fertility and calving tips + tricks – 25th June (Weds)
- Calf management, housing + vaccines – 7th July (Mon)
- Mastitis + drying off – 21st July (Mon)
- Cow nutrition + deficiencies – 6th August (Weds)



Both clients and non-clients welcome!

£695/full course attendance + certification (ex VAT)

Funding available for Devon YFC members, through the Dartington Cattle Breeding Trust, whilst Cornwall YFC funding is currently under application.

**If you would like to attend the course, or an individual module(s) call:
01566 772 371**

Each module will be delivered on a different farm by a core group of vets. This course is being designed, overseen and run by our vet Lucy, who holds a PGCert(VetEd) in higher education. This small group experience, with on-farm assessments, will result in superior learning and certification.



Ordering Medication

Our medicines ordering policy is in place to ensure all prescriptions can be approved, processed, and supplied before our branches close each day. With that in mind, ***please be advised the latest time to place an order for same day collection at Launceston is now 5pm.***

After this time, we are still happy to take your meds order over the phone, but it will be processed at the start of the next working day. In addition, to help you keep on top of your medicine stock, ***we also now offer online medicines ordering.*** This is available 24hours a day, via our website, and we aim to complete all orders within one working day:

<https://castleveterinarygroup.co.uk/farm-vet-launceston/contact-us/request-medication/>

If you wish to order through our Liskeard branch, please place your order by 3:30pm for next day collection.

All requests are reviewed by a veterinary surgeon, who may ring you back, if any clarification or discussion is needed before they can prescribe your drugs.

Red Tractor – Updated Medicines Course Requirement

Red Tractor now require someone on accredited beef and sheep holdings to have attended a medicine handling course ***within the last five years***. This will affect most farms in 2025, as the original requirement for Medicines course attendance was introduced between 2018-2019.



Therefore, we have updated our in-person training and will begin running courses again this summer:

- May 27th 3.30-5.30pm, Lifton Community Centre
- July 8th 5.30pm-7.30pm, Lifton Community Centre

To enquire or book on, please contact our reception team.

Blue Tongue Virus Vaccination

We have had a fantastic response from our clients in the face of the new Blue Tongue Virus strain entering East Devon, ***with over 21,000 doses of BTV-3 vaccine prescribed by our vets so far!*** This means thousands of stock have been protected, with more farms currently on our waiting list.

As Cornwall and most of Devon is naive to this strain of virus, we are at high risk of deaths and illness this summer once the virus begins to replicate again. As predicted, we have already seen different brands of BTV-3 vaccine go out of stock or become unavailable.

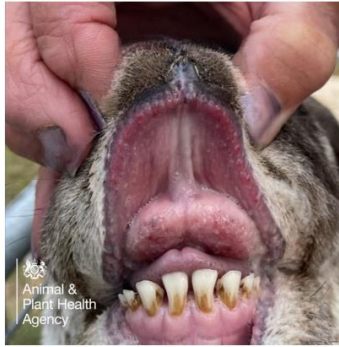
Clinical Impact in Netherlands, Denmark, Belgium and Germany (prior to vaccine being created):

- **Sheep:** Severe symptoms, including lameness and mouth ulceration, led to a 75% mortality rate in those affected. Surviving sheep often required euthanasia due to long-term health issues.

Dead stock collection services overwhelmed and mortality recording poor, due to high losses.

- **Cattle:** Milk production dropped for up to ten weeks after infection (1.15kg/cow/day), with prolonged recovery times and significant economic losses. Dummy calves also seen where dams infected during pregnancy. Lameness and mouth lesions can also affect cattle, though death is less common than in sheep.
- **Other Species:** Cases were also reported in goats, alpacas, and dogs.

Signs in sheep

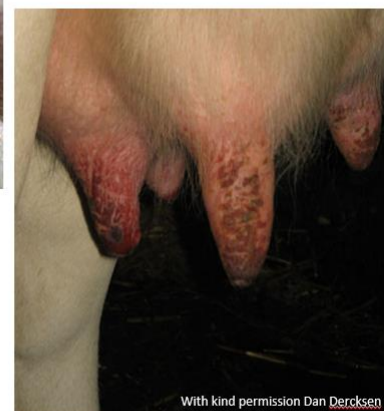
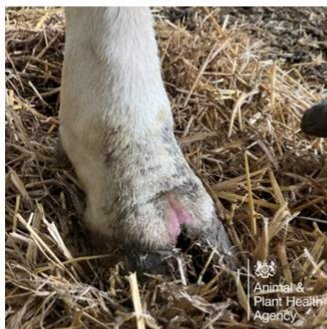


Boehringer
Ingelheim

Vaccination status of European countries:

- **Belgium:** plan to make BTV-3 vaccination mandatory in 2025, due to their carcass collection system becoming overwhelmed, and restrictions in trade impacting the economy
- **Germany:** over 1 million sheep and 2 million cattle vaccinated in 2024
- **France:** 11 million vaccine doses procured and distributed, though lack of coordination has been criticized by farmers
- Vaccination campaigns are also underway in the Netherlands, Denmark, Spain, Portugal, Austria and Switzerland, as well as here in the UK

Signs in Cattle



Boehringer
Ingelheim

With kind permission Dan Dercksen

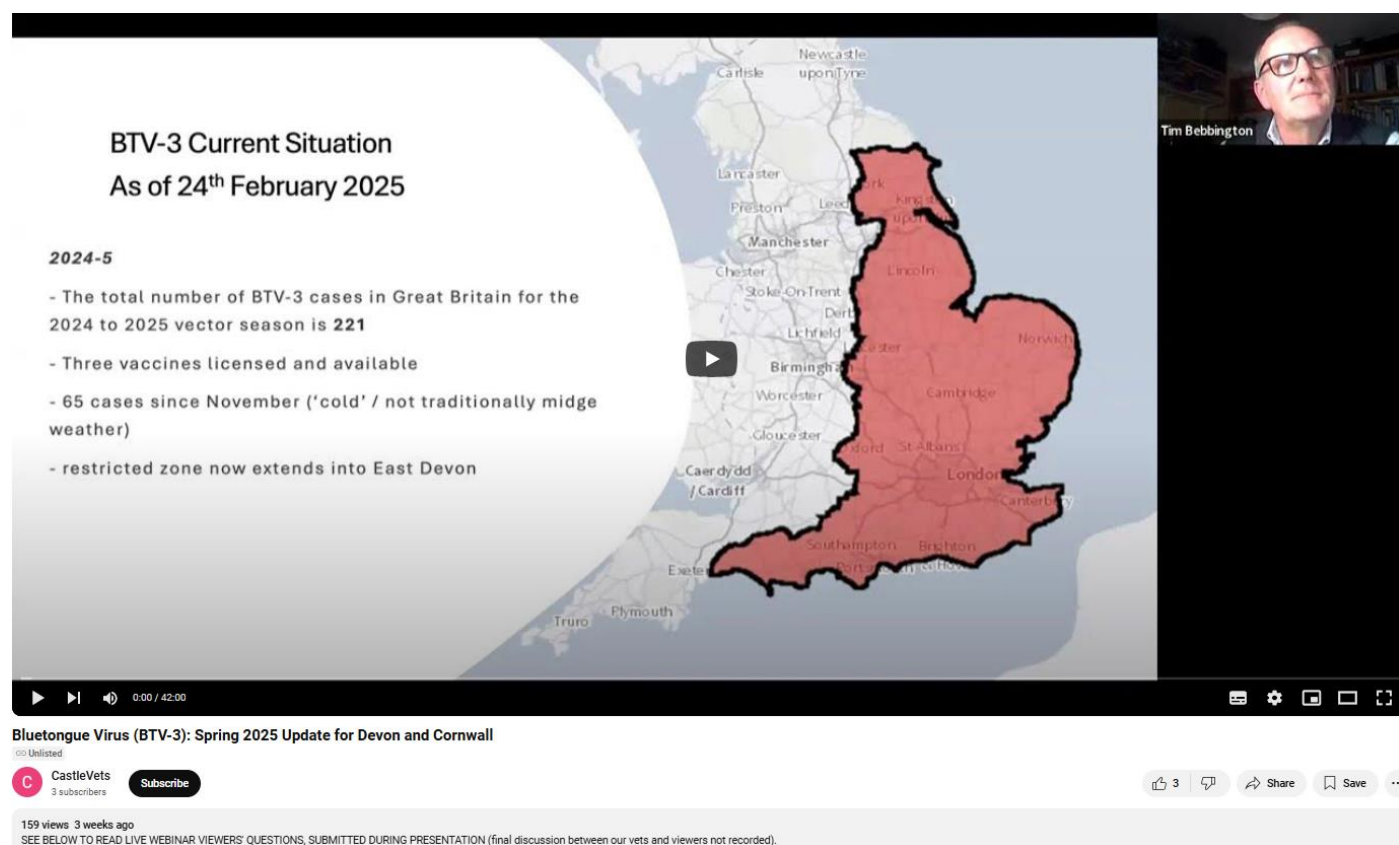
With kind permission Dan Dercksen

The above information has been extracted from the International BTV-3 Symposium, held in November 2024 by Boehringer Ingelheim - <https://sheepvetsoc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Brochure-Symposium-BTV3-Lyon-Nov-2024.pdf>

If you would like to protect your sheep, cattle, goats, alpacas or llamas please give us a call to discuss your options.

We also have an in depth webinar on Blue Tongue – 3, which we recommend watching, even if you don't intend to vaccinate, to help you spot the signs of this reportable disease:

<https://youtu.be/nHclaSkI2Wo>



BTV-3 Current Situation
As of 24th February 2025

2024-5

- The total number of BTV-3 cases in Great Britain for the 2024 to 2025 vector season is **221**
- Three vaccines licensed and available
- 65 cases since November ('cold' / not traditionally midge weather)
- restricted zone now extends into East Devon

The video player interface shows the video is at 0:00 / 42:00. The channel is 'CastleVets' with 3 subscribers. The video title is 'Bluetongue Virus (BTV-3): Spring 2025 Update for Devon and Cornwall'. Below the video, it says '159 views 3 weeks ago' and 'SEE BELOW TO READ LIVE WEBINAR VIEWERS' QUESTIONS, SUBMITTED DURING PRESENTATION (final discussion between our vets and viewers not recorded)'.

