

# UTASS Briefing: 24<sup>th</sup> September 2024

## BLUETONGUE: ESSENTIAL FACTS

- Over 4,000 cases of BTV-3 reported in the Netherlands, Germany and Belgium since May 2024. Cases also reported in France, Luxemburg and Denmark for the first time.
- 97 cases in England since 26<sup>th</sup> August 2024.
- BTV-3 affects cattle, sheep, goats, deer and camelids.
- Spread by midges but ONLY when temperatures are above 12°C.
- Symptoms vary across ruminants, but include:
  - Fever
  - Lesions
  - Redness of the mouth, eyes & nose
  - Reddening of the skin above the hoof
  - Excessive salivation & nasal discharge.
  - **However, some animals may show little or no clinical signs.**
- It is a Notifiable Disease; cases MUST be reported by calling APHA on 03000 200 301.
- The Bluetongue control zone runs up the Eastern side of England from the South Coast to East Riding of Yorkshire.
- Defra has permitted the use of 3 'unauthorised' vaccines which only claim reduction or prevention of clinical signs and mortality rates. These vaccines are POM-V and can only be prescribed by a vet.
- Look out for signs and plan ahead to protect your business - source livestock responsibly.

## BIRD FLU: POULTRY KEEPERS

All bird keepers must register their birds with the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) by 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024. This applies to **ALL bird keepers** regardless of numbers and includes pets/small flocks. This can be done by emailing [customer.registration@apha.gov.uk](mailto:customer.registration@apha.gov.uk), phoning APHA on 03000 200 301 or online at [Register as a keeper of less than 50 poultry or other captive birds - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/register-as-a-keeper-of-less-than-50-poultry-or-other-captive-birds)

## DELINKED PAYMENTS

The RPA are expecting to start making the second (final) 2024 instalment of the delinked payment from the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024. This has been brought forward from the 1<sup>st</sup> December to help farmers with cash flow after the difficult weather. Payment of the first instalment began on the 1<sup>st</sup> August.

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## FARM FOR THE FUTURE

This is your very last chance to get **FULLY FUNDED** (this means completely FREE to you!) personalised support to help you tackle the challenges your farm business is facing now BPS is being phased out.

We're already working with OVER 140 farming families, offering a series of meetings designed to help you plan for the future as well as personalised business advice, tailored to your own requirements.

This final programme will include exclusive meetings designed to help you and your business. Our upcoming meetings will help you to find answers to the following questions...

- Should I be making changes to my farm business?
- Which environmental schemes are right for me and how do I apply?
- How can I make cattle work better for me?
- Can I maximise output without increasing input costs?
- What are my farm accounts telling me?

Are these questions you keep asking yourself? Sign up before the end of September to make sure you don't miss out!

To sign up to the Farm for the Future programme, head to <https://www.tfaforms.com/5019669> or call the UTASS office on 01833 641010.

To have a chat about the programme and find out more, call UTASS or email [info@utass.org](mailto:info@utass.org).

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