



alnorthumbria
farm vets

Newsletter

September 2025

As summer draws to a close, and despite a few sunny days, autumn is clearly on its way!

We're now turning our attention to tugging, autumn calving, and bulling. Just a reminder to get your bulls and tups fertility tested in good time — this allows for any necessary retesting or sourcing of replacements without delay.



If you're planning to use teaser tups, ram vasectomies should ideally be carried out around 8 weeks before use, so now is a good time to get those appointments booked.

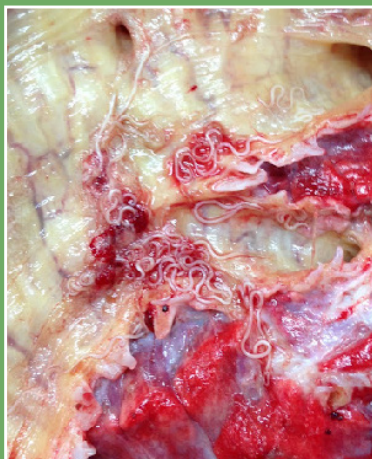
Lungworm In Cattle

As autumn approaches and the wet weather sets in, its time to start thinking about lungworm.

The main sources of infection include: larvae that survive the winter on pasture; larvae that are brought in with new cattle; or dormant larvae already present in cattle. Once consumed by the cow from pasture it takes 3 weeks for lungworm to take affect in the lungs.

Signs include coughing, especially after exercise, rapid weight loss and body condition, milk drop can be seen in lactating cattle. With heavy infections cows may extend their heads forward and low with open mouths and in severe cases sudden death may occur.

Diagnosis of lungworm can be done via a faecal sample, blood test or confirmed on post-mortem.



Fortunately, most wormers are effective against lungworm, further management could involve using vaccination (Huskvac). If you suspect lungworm in your herd or would like advice on prevention and treatment, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Bluetongue Update

At the time of writing, there have been **22 confirmed cases of Bluetongue Virus Serotype 3 (BTV-3)** across England this summer, with the most recent case reported in **Staffordshire**. The entirety of **England remains within the Bluetongue Restricted Zone**, and movement restrictions continue to apply. However, **changes are expected from 21 September 2025**, when **Scotland will ease certain movement controls** for animals entering from the restricted zone.

Here's a summary of the updated guidance:

- Stores, fattening stock and non-pregnant females of any species are able to enter scotland without pre-movement testing
- Pregnant sheep or goats can also move without testing
- Pregnant cattle must either - have completed a full bultavo-3 vaccine course at least 21 days prior to movement **OR** be moved within 7 days of a negative pre-movement test
- Breeding male cattle must either - be vaccinated with bultavo-3 **OR** have a negative a pre-movement test. It is also recommended they be tested prior to breeding.
- Male breeding sheep can either be moved with a pre-movement test **OR** a post-movement test prior to breeding in Scotland.

Testing & Licensing

- All **pre-movement testing** must be carried out by a **vet** and submitted to the **Pirbright Institute**.
- Tests are valid for **7 calendar days** and require careful sample handling to avoid delays.
- Movement licences are required for all animals entering Scotland, even if exempt from testing.

Additional Notes

- Movement of **deer and camelids** (e.g., llamas, alpacas) is subject to specific guidance—please contact us for details.
- If you **suspect Bluetongue on your farm**, report it immediately to **Defra/APHA**. It is a **notifiable disease**.

For the latest updates or help with **vaccination, testing, or movement licensing**, please don't hesitate to get in touch. This situation is evolving rapidly, and we're here to support you.



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Student Experience

At Alnorthumbria we are happy to see many students throughout the year one of our August students Laura has written this article.

As a vet student completing my studies in Italy I can strongly affirm that I always felt the need to do more practical experience throughout my learning process.

Since my first year of studies I have been following a local vet from my town every summer to put my studies into practice and start learning some job skills. I'm from an area in Italy where there is a lot of dairy farms and where parmesan is produced.

As I am coming out the end of my studies I wanted to add a placement in a vet clinic abroad to my experience.

Doing placement here with Alnorthumbria I was able to gain more confidence with handling animals and gave me first hand experience on doing some basic procedures I needed improvement in.

Every day in the clinic provided me with valuable hands on experience on animal medicine and client care, allowing me to apply in a practical way the knowledge I've gained in vet school. Such as treatment options for a goat with bloat, how to manage and treat a foot abscess in a cow and how to scan for OPA. I've also learnt about AI syncing programs and have been able to see the care of small holder stock as well as larger scale farms.

Even though I know I've have a lot to learn I feel like I've learnt so much in the short time. I'm very grateful to the Alnorthumbria team for looking after me and helping me set the ground for my future career in veterinary medicine.



Glendale Show

We had a fantastic time at **Glendale Show** on the **August Bank Holiday**, enjoying a day of sunshine and celebration. It was a pleasure to provide **veterinary cover** for the event and to catch up with so many of you at our stand.

A huge **congratulations to all the competitors**, and a special shout-out to **Meg**, who took home the top prize in the **first-ever Glendale Show Herd Competition** - a brilliant achievement!



Don't Forget to Use!

- **Enzovax** and **Toxovax** in sheep, for prevention and control of abortion. Please get your orders in as soon as you are able, to help ensure the vaccine is ready when needed. These must be given at least 4 and 3 weeks pre-tupping respectively.
- **Trace element boluses**
- **Pneumonia vaccines**
- **Fencovis** - provides calf protection through colostrum to prevent scour in autumn calves, vaccinate dam 12 to 3 weeks pre-calving.