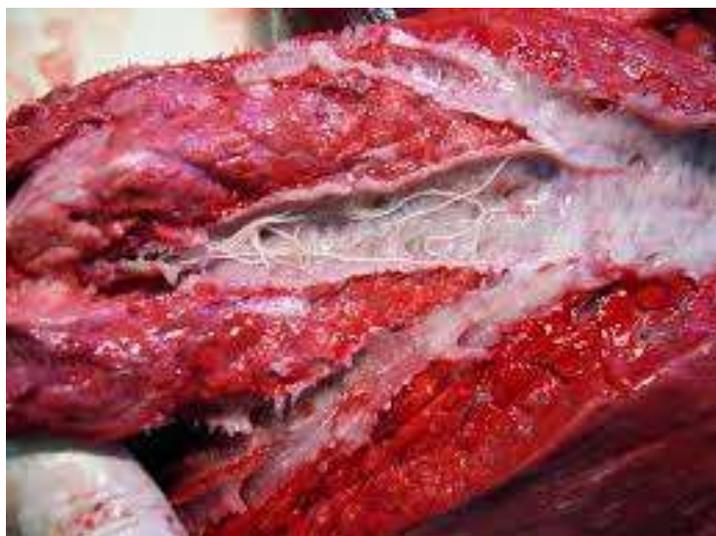


## Lungworm

Lungworm can cause considerable clinical disease and economic losses in young growing cattle as well as adult cattle. Early signs you will see will be an increased respiratory rate at rest and occasional coughing, especially after short periods of exercise such as being moved. Multiple animals in the group tend to be affected. As the disease progresses you will see animals struggling for breath more, becoming reluctant to move and coughing at rest. When the disease is at its worst animals will stand with their heads and necks extended, struggling for breath and may have froth at the mouth and be unwilling to eat. Signs in the dairy herd will start with a reduction in the bulk tank volume along with coughing as they are brought in for milking



### *Affected Animals*

Youngstock – first season grazing animals tend to be most at risk as they have not had the chance to develop any immunity. These animals will benefit greatly from vaccination before turnout.

Adult cows – these may have developed some immunity to lungworm as youngstock either through exposure or vaccination but will only last for up to 6 months (i.e that grazing season) and so will require a booster each year if they are not exposed to low levels of lungworm at pasture to maintain immunity. The level of immunity in each animal varies as does the level of exposure to lungworm larvae on pasture therefore even adult cattle presumed immune can become infected. Signs typically seen will be milk drop in the dairy herd as well as coughing as they walk to and from the parlour. Lost milk production will cost between £1.50 and £3 per cow per day with recovery taking between 10 and 20 days. The disease can be rapidly fatal in some animals with devastating consequences

### *Diagnosis*

Diagnosis is done by confirming the presence of lungworm larvae in the faeces or via blood test to detect antibodies.

### *Prevention*

Lungworm prevention is based upon development of immunity and is best achieved by **vaccination**. Strategic anthelmintic treatment is a very risky strategy for lungworm prevention. Treatment of clinical cases is often fraught with difficulty.

**Bovilis Huskvac** is the vaccine used to protect against lungworm and can be used from 8 weeks of age. It requires 2 doses 4 weeks apart to start the program and a booster prior to turnout each year if there is no exposure to lungworm on pasture to maintain immunity gained from vaccination. If there is sufficient exposure on pasture to maintain immunity gained by vaccination then a booster is not always required in older cattle. First season grazing animals are most at risk as they will have no immunity.

Bovilis Huskvac is given orally as a drench after shaking the bottle. It has a very short shelf life so should only be ordered when required. It is important not to worm the cattle at the time of administration as the vaccine is actually live inactivated worms.

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**LARGE ANIMAL VETS:** Greg Mallard BVSc MRCVS, Duncan Williams BVMS MRCVS,  
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**Veterinary surgeries at: Frome, Warminster, Westbury and Trowbridge**

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# Bluetongue

Once again Bluetongue (serotype 8) is present and spreading in central France. Most cases have been detected using blood tests in recent months rather than by clinical signs. If you can remember from a few years ago clinical signs of Bluetongue are more obvious and severe in sheep than in cattle.

The disease spreads via infected midges (not mosquitoes) and because of their size it is virtually impossible to prevent midges biting your animals. There are no fly treatment products licensed to prevent midge bites. The midges have to 'incubate' the virus within them for a period of time before they then bite a second animal and pass it on, this period can be anything from a few days to a month depending on the temperature.

DEFRA has released a document stating that it believes there is a high risk of BTV reaching the UK this summer and the most likely time is August / September. Any time when we have warm southerly winds this summer midges will blow across the Channel from France. Once a reservoir of infected animals is established in the UK then spread will happen quickly. The better the summer weather we have the higher the risk of significant impact.

There will be some animals present in the UK that were vaccinated during the last outbreak but as the vaccine at that time had an emergency license, longevity of protection was not known. It is unlikely that those animals will be fully protected now. There is a vaccine made by Zoetis that can be used but at present this is not available in the UK. There is no rush at this stage as we are in a vector free period in the UK at present when transmission is not possible but by late Spring we will be able to advise you on vaccine availability and what you should do.

In addition clients who export animals should take advice before vaccination on what implications it will have on export destinations.

Until then we have added a page to our website with advice for farmers on the current situation and advice from DEFRA. <http://www.garstonvets.co.uk/content2/?q=node/84>

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## Congratulations to Chris and Sarah



Congratulations to Chris and Sarah Mangham on the birth of their son Edward who came along a little later than expected but in bouncing health at 8lb 4oz. Chris and Sarah have discovered the meaning of tiredness that only a parent can truly understand !

Edward has adopted his fathers hair style for now, although he is letting it grow a little longer than dad.

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## Greg's Useless Facts

The part of an animals eye that 'glows in the dark' when reflecting light at night is called the tapetum.

The cutting teeth in a cat or dogs mouth are called carnasial teeth

Polar Bears are all left handed (this one is made up)

