

# Vet Viewpoint

A regional round-up of key veterinary issues

**Maggie Macdonald**  
Ardene House  
Aberdeenshire

Schmallenberg virus has recently been confirmed in cattle in Aberdeenshire. More cases are likely to be seen in the near future, due to increased local awareness on the part of both farmers and vets, resulting in an improved uptake of flock and herd screening via blood testing.

The disease is spread by midges and can cause a high temperature and scour in beef cows and also milk drop in dairy animals. The most obvious clinical sign and financial implication, however, is deformed calves and lambs.

Testing has also shown that infected cattle can also produce "dummy" calves, which appear normal at birth, but fail to suck and thrive and ultimately require euthanasia.

Recently a vaccine has become available. Cattle are to be given a double dose four weeks apart and the course must be completed at least three weeks before bulling to ensure adequate immunity, with sheep needing a single dose again three weeks before tupping.

**Huw Lloyd**  
Bishopton Vets  
North Yorkshire



This is a benchmarking month for clients on our Dairy Herd Health Scheme. Average milk yields are comparable to levels of a year ago.

However, the most notable difference is a significant drop in average somatic cell counts to 166,000 cells across all the herds.

This is encouraging. Maintaining a set milking parlour routine and management decisions with regards to udder health is paramount.

Despite best practice, infections still do occur, highlighted recently when I was asked to examine a recumbent peak lactation cow with a toxic E coli mastitis.

Prompt identification, specific treatment administered by the client and a combination of intravenous and oral fluid therapy appear to have saved the cow, but the damage to the lactation as a whole are yet to be seen.

**Dave Feneley**  
Wensum Valley Vets  
Norfolk



The Royal Norfolk Show took place in the last week of June. Acting as one of the honorary veterinary surgeons gets you close to some incredible livestock. There were more than 2,500 pigs, goats, cattle, sheep

and horses on site over the two days.

Six vets looked after all stock with on-site cover too. Thankfully, there was nothing too serious to deal with but, with a large number of animals on full view over a big showground, it is vital there are enough of us to respond quickly when required.

**Sean Hughes**  
Tyndale Vets  
Gloucestershire



We saw a rise in cases of clinical ketosis and the problems associated with this last month. As a result we are still seeing our fair share of left

displaced abomasums (LDAs). The practice is routinely using keyhole surgery to correct LDAs since January and the success rates of this procedure seem promising.

We have also seen a slight increase in cases of milk fever and along with the rise in LDAs, this is possibly down to one thing: grass. As a result, dry cow management during this period is worth paying close attention to.

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A regional monthly round-up of key veterinary issues from members of the XL Vets group. For more information, go to [www.xlvets.co.uk](http://www.xlvets.co.uk)

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