

Summer 2026

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To sign up your land or get involved with badger vaccination training, visit: bvff.co.uk

Key things to remember:

It doesn't cost you anything to be involved

You don't have to do anything apart from signing up your land

If you are keen, you can get involved in training by APHA to be certified to survey, trap and vaccinate badgers. They will pay you to do so!



FARM REMINDERS

Now is the time to think about VASECTOMIES for Teaser Rams. Surgery needs to be carried out 6-8 weeks prior to using teaser.

Order your Enzo/Toxo vaccines now!

Don't forget Bluetongue is now endemic in our cows and midges. Have you boosted your Bluetongue vaccine? The licensed vaccines are currently recommending boosters annually for all ruminants.

New bTB Badger Vaccination Scheme in Worcestershire

A pilot badger vaccination scheme has been successfully operating in East Sussex with excellent results. This will be expanding to three new 'hotspot' areas, one of which is Worcestershire. This is a great opportunity to play a part in helping to control bovine Tuberculosis (TB). The 4 year scheme is fully funded by DEFRA with the potential to extend for another 2 years.

Badgers can act as a wildlife reservoir for Mycobacterium bovis, which causes tuberculosis (TB) in cattle and other animals. **Culling is unlikely to be on the agenda again for any government, so the vaccination programme should be supported by us all.** It aims to reduce the transmission and spread of the disease in the badger population which will then reduce the risk of TB in cattle.



The project organisers hope to recruit local people with rural knowledge to trap and vaccinate badgers. **Training and payment for this is provided by APHA**, who are keen to start ASAP.

Traps are placed near signs of badger activity (setts, runs or latrines). The traps are dug into the ground, locked open and baited with peanuts for 7-10 days.

Once badgers are familiar with the traps, they are set to capture for 2 consecutive nights. Each morning traps are checked, and any badgers are vaccinated, marked and released.

Vaccination sessions will run for 2-3 weeks at each target area and are typically repeated annually for 4 years. Whilst we do not know exactly how long the vaccine will protect an individual badger for, studies have confirmed it reduces the development of lesions, therefore significantly reducing the excretion of TB. **New infections in badgers are reduced by 76%. New infections in cubs are reduced by 79% when more than 1/3 of adult badgers in that group are vaccinated.** These results are impressive and give real hope of disease control.

For this project to be successful we need as many farmers and landowners as possible to sign up, giving their permission to allow the trappers and vaccinators to operate on their land. There is no cost to farmers or landowners.

More information can be found on tbhub.co.uk or bvff.co.uk

BIOBEST LABORATORY CLOSURE

HiHealth Herdcare (CHECS Accreditation for BVD, Johnes, IBR, Lepto, Neospora and TB) from Biobest Laboratories closed in February.

Biobest will work closely with their health scheme members to ensure a smooth transition to an alternative provider. Health scheme members will be contacted directly to discuss available options.

REMINDER!

Prostaglandin PGF2a (E.g. Estrumate, Cyclix, Cevaprost)

Safety Handling:

Care should be taken when handling this product. **Avoid direct contact via SKIN, MUCOUS MEMBRANES OR INJECTION. Can cause miscarriage or asthma attack/bronchospasm.**

Equine Reminders

- Please remember to update us if you have moved yards, or changed your mobile number or email address.
- What3Words can be more helpful for your vet to find your location, rather than just a postcode. Please include it in the information you provide.

BHA/FEI Vaccine Reminder Rules:

INTERVALS AS FOLLOWS.

Between 1st and 2nd Vaccine: 21 – 60 days

Between 2nd and 3rd Vaccine: 120 – 180 days

Booster for BHA/FEI/some shows: No more than 6 months apart.

This is the gold standard whilst flu is circulating throughout the country. Please consider switching to from yearly to 6 monthly boosters if you are out and about. This protects not only your horse, but those left at home who are potentially vulnerable to what you may bring back. Older, immunocompromised horses or ponies with Cushings are particularly at risk.

MacArthur Barstow & Gibbs



Equine Event Biosecurity

As mentioned above, be mindful of biosecurity when you are competing at shows and other events. Viruses including Flu & Herpes and bacteria such as Strep Equi can be unknowingly picked up when in close proximity to other horses.

Remember That:

- Vaccination is the best way to reduce spread.
- Don't handle other people's horses or allow nose to nose contact in waiting rings.
- Take your own water and feed buckets.
- Wash and disinfect your lorry or trailer when you get home.
- Check your horse's temperature regularly and discuss any increases above 38.5C with us.

Equine Worming Programme 2026

1 Horse: £185 2+ Horses: £165 per horse

What is included in the worming plan?

- A tailor-made pack for your horse(s)
- 4 worm egg counts per horse using our in-house faecal analysis system
- A redworm blood test including a free visit charge
 - A tapeworm saliva test
- Advice from our experienced equine vets
 - Reminders when your tests are due
 - Quick turnaround time for your results
 - Discounted weighing
- Notifications that your horse needs a wormer
- A range of wormers available to buy same day or next day direct from us

We would like to congratulate Anne on her recent award. She is the proud recipient of The Ray Williamson Award.

This is a prestigious accolade presented by the Association of Racecourse Veterinary Surgeons (ARVS) to honour individuals for outstanding services and lifelong contributions to racehorse welfare and British horse racing. Well done Anne and much deserved!

