



hebridean sheep society

Bluetongue Update

As of 17 September, the restricted zones because of cases of Bluetongue have been extended. Following confirmation of BTV-3 on a number of premises in the East Riding of Yorkshire and Lincolnshire, there is now evidence that there is some local transmission of bluetongue virus. The temporary control zone (TCZ) has been revoked and replaced by a larger restricted zone area covering East Riding of Yorkshire and part of Lincolnshire.

Following the identification of further cases of BTV-3 in Kent and East Sussex, the restricted zone covering Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex and parts of Kent and Greater London has been extended and now covers Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, Kent, East Sussex and part of Greater London.

The disease is spread by biting midges and these insects get more widely distributed when blown by the wind. With current cases all along the Eastern areas of England and the wind direction forecast to remain NE to E for the next few days, the possibility of further spread is high.

Movement of sheep out of a restricted zone can be only for slaughter and to a designated slaughterhouse and you must obtain a special licence from the DEFRA website [here](#).

Bluetongue is a notifiable disease and so you must report any suspicion to 03000 200 301 (England), or 03000 038 268 (Wales) or your local Field Service Office (Scotland). The chief signs of infection in sheep are

- ulcers or sores in the mouth and nose
- discharge from the eyes or nose and drooling from mouth
- swelling of the lips, tongue, head and neck and the coronary band (where the skin of the leg meets the horn of the foot)

A vaccine is available but note that the circulating serotype in this outbreak is BTV-3; your vet will be able to advise.

Forthcoming HSS Events

The only remaining sale in the HSS Calendar is York on 5/6 October. Currently, York Livestock Centre is outside the east Yorkshire Restricted Zone and so the sale can go ahead but animals from Restricted Zones will not be able to be brought. If the East Yorkshire Restricted Zone becomes extended to include the Mart, the sale will have to be cancelled.

More Information is available on the [DEFRA website](#) which will be updated as necessary.