

Bluetongue

Bluetongue is a midge-borne viral disease which affects all ruminants, such as cattle, goats, deer and, in particular, sheep.

Parts of northern Europe are currently experiencing a Bluetongue outbreak. Infected midges can be carried by the wind so the UK also faces the risk of the disease.

Be vigilant – especially in the case of sheep. If you suspect any signs of the disease you must report this immediately to your local Animal Health Office.



Clinical signs in sheep: may include fever; swelling of the neck; lameness; mouth ulcerations; drooling; haemorrhages in the skin and other tissues; respiratory problems; and a high mortality rate. Rarely, there may be some discolouration and swelling of the tongue.

Clinical signs in cattle: although Bluetongue usually causes no apparent illness in cattle or goats, in the current outbreak in parts of northern Europe cattle are displaying the following clinical signs: nasal discharge; swelling and ulceration of the mouth; swollen teats; tiredness; conjunctivitis; and reddening of the skin.

Bluetongue does not affect humans.

For further information visit:

www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/diseases

Defra helpline: **08459 33 55 77**



PB 12456 (Reprinted with amendments March 2007)



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Welsh Assembly Government



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