Bluetongue: Guidance for GB Livestock Keepers

Signs of bluetongue

In sheep:
- Lethargy, reluctance to move
- Crusty erosions around the nostrils and on the muzzle
- Discharge of mucus and drooling from mouth and nose
- Swelling of the muzzle, face and above the hoof
- Reddening of the skin above the hoof
- Redness of the mouth, eyes, nose
- Fever
- Lameness
- Breathing problems
- Erosions on the teats

In cattle:
- Lethargy
- Crusty erosions around the nostrils and muzzle
- Redness of the mouth, eyes, nose
- Reddening of the skin above the hoof
- Nasal discharge
- Reddening and erosions on the teats

Cattle do not often show clear signs of disease so owners should also look out for signs of fatigue and lower productivity including reduced milk yield.

Who to contact

If you suspect bluetongue you must report it immediately to the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA).
- England: telephone 03000 200 301
- Wales: telephone 0300 303 8268
- Scotland: contact your local APHA Field Services Office

What you can do now

- Monitor stock carefully and report any clinical signs of disease
- Source animals responsibly and check their health status
- Consider vaccination
- Maintain good biosecurity

For the latest information and useful links log onto www.nfuonline.com/bluetongue