

BCVA Congress 2026

Programme

Key to colour-coding

 AI	 General Practice	 Keynote	 Sheep
 Calves	 Goats	 Nutrition	 TB
 Commercial	 Infectious Diseases	 Practical	

Programme is subject to change

Thursday 15th October

Lectures

	Holstein Room	Dexter Room
10:00	President's Address	
10:15	Farm Vets – the excitement of infectious disease discovery - Prof Joe Brownlie	
11:15	Ruminant Road Map - David Black, Lucy Brunton, Fiona Lovatt and Mark Jelley	
12:05	Bluetongue update - lessons learnt - Speakers to be confirmed	
13:00	REFRESHMENT BREAK	
13:45		Two presentations of iodine deficiency in dairy cows - Andrea Turner
14:00	UK bulk milk tank residue fails: what can we learn? - Amy Blank and Karen Bond	
14:15		The role of vitamin E, selenium & anti-oxidant status in transition cattle - Julia Moorhouse
14:30	Water buffalo for practitioners: not another bovine - Rosie Lyle	sponsored by 
14:45		Dynamic Parlour Assessments; a review of common findings in practice - Hannah Fitzsimmonds
15:00	Lambing time – getting it right - Fiona Lovatt	Approaches to support uptake of preventive medicine practices on ruminant farms - Rosie Reyneke
15:30	REFRESHMENT BREAK	
16:00	Panel discussion: The evolving role of farm veterinary technicians in the UK – legislative needs, workforce sustainability, and opportunities for a modern Vet-Led team	Changing agricultural lending in the UK - Mel Shipley
16:30		Control of BRD in dairy-beef Systems - Tim Potter sponsored by 
17:00	AGM	
17:15		
17:30	FINISH	

Friday 16th October

Lectures			
	Holstein Room	Dexter Room	Limousin Room
08:30		Three independent observational farm trials using FerAppease on beef units in North-East Scotland - <i>Tim Geraghty</i>	
08:45		UK field trial in fresh dairy heifers using maternal bovine appeasing substance - <i>Rob Drysdale</i>	
09:00	Artificial Intelligence - are you being left behind? <i>Paul Horwood, IVC Evidensia</i> <i>Bobby Hyde, Vet Vison AI</i> <i>Adele Williams-Xavier, CoVet</i>	Vet duties at Livestock Shows - <i>Paddy Gordon</i>	
09:30		Shaping the ideal dairy farm: insights from the UK industry - <i>Ginny Sherwin</i>	
09:45		Can we use a novel objective measure to evaluate the impact of the housed environment on dairy cow welfare?- <i>Jake Thompson</i>	
10:00	AI Panel Discussion <i>Chaired by David Black, BCVA President</i>	Bridging the research-practice gap: A rapid evidence appraisal tool for busy clinicians - <i>Jessica Reynolds and Marnie Brennan</i>	Antibiotic free cure of hoof diseases - <i>Marc Spackler</i>
10:15		Heifer Rearing: how best to monitor performance - <i>Tom Chamberlain</i>	
10:30	REFRESHMENT BREAK		
11:00	Research-based strategies to mitigate stress and improve production efficiency in beef cattle - <i>Prof Reinaldo Fernandes Cooke</i>	What does The GB Calf Strategy 2025–2030 mean for vets? - <i>Halcyon Hayward and Harriet Bunning</i>	CattleEye- automated mobility weight and BCS - <i>Nial O’Boyle</i> <i>sponsored by</i> 
11:30	 <i>sponsored by</i>	It’s not just salty water: rethinking electrolytes in calf clinical decision making - <i>Ginny Sherwin and Laura Tennant</i>	
12:00	The Bovine Tuberculosis Situation within the United Kingdom: current practices and need for greater support - <i>Maisie Button</i>	What to consider when choosing an electrolyte formula for diarrhoea in calves - <i>Matt Swanborough</i>	The role of refined functional carbohydrates in rearing a healthy calf - <i>Alison Bond</i> <i>sponsored by</i> 
12:15	High prevalence of paratuberculosis in slaughter generation is mirrored in lifetime seroprevalence of breeding replacements in two beef herds - <i>George Caldow</i>		
12:30	Evaluation of cryptosporidiosis management practices on British cattle farms - <i>Kat Baxter-Smith and Sara Robson</i>	Calf disbudding: investigating thermocautery disbudding methods - <i>Benjamin Blowers</i>	
12:45	Calf serum MAP antibody titre as indicator of neonatal expo-sure to Johne’s Disease - <i>Jonathan Hedgecock and Steven Van Winden</i>	Investigation into the association between cow precalfing metabolic profile analysis and Failure of Passive Transfer (FPT) in a spring calving Scottish beef suckler herd - <i>Rachel Bragg</i>	
13:15	LUNCH		
14:00	TB Champions CIC – Tackling TB, together - <i>Emily Ashford and Marianne Combe</i>	Preparing ewes for lambing (for those that could not attend the earlier workshop) - <i>Joe Angell and Phillipa Page</i>	The next lactation starts at dry-off: phytogenic support for abrupt cessation of milking - <i>Andy Alder</i>
14:30	The TB Advisory Service and what we have achieved through trusted advisers and joint decision making on farm - <i>Sarah Tomlinson</i>	SCOPS/COWS fluke (for those that could not attend the earlier workshop) - <i>John Graham-Brown, Phillipa Page, Rebecca Mearns</i>	
15:00	Learnings from the Pembrokeshire TB Project - <i>Brendan Griffin and Beverley Hopkins</i>	Gastrointestinal nematode diagnostics including species differentiation - <i>Phillipa Page and Rebecca Mearns</i>	
15:30	REFRESHMENT BREAK		
16:00	TB diagnostics Symposium <i>Keith Cutler, Synergy Farm Health</i> <i>Christoph Egli, IDEXX</i>	Update on sustainable control of Haemonchosis in UK small ruminants and camelids - <i>Rob Kelly</i> ★	
16:30	Skin test and IGRA: the two formats for statutory TB testing - <i>Camille Harrison and Stefan Craus, APHA</i>	Goat Tips for Cattle Vets - <i>Ben Dustan</i>	
17:00		Disbudding of Goat Kids- <i>Ben Dustan</i>	
17:30	FINISH		

★ Following this session there will be an open poster session in the Gallery (poster area) where delegates will be able to talk to experts from SCOPS and COWS.

Saturday 17th October

	Lectures	
	Holstein Room	Dexter Room
09:00	Mycotic disease in cattle – Beyond the binder - Alan Murphy	Dropping the ball? Should we be rethinking castration pain relief? - Richard Cooper and Jude Roberts
09:30	Salmonella in cattle – Not all roads lead to Dublin - Alan Murphy	
10:00	Ketosis and postpartum disease in the dairy cow: are we interpreting it correctly? - Nial O'Boyle	Validation of computer vision for automated assessment of cow comfort in UK commercial dairy farms - Patricia Simoes
10:15		EMS reform: Are we still training farm vets? - Isabel Litaba
10:30	REFRESHMENT BREAK	
11:00	Using total protein to monitor and improve colostrum management: practical outcomes for calf health - Kat Hart	Supporting clinical audit as an antimicrobial stewardship tool in farm animal practice - Beth Riley and Amelia Sidwell
11:15	Uses for performing abdominal ultrasound in cattle - Philippa Gibbons	
11:30		Should we use prophylactic antibiotics in bovine castration? A clinical audit - Emma Greaves and Beth Riley
11:45	An exploratory randomised controlled trial of a probiotic-postbiotic supplement on the health and welfare of pre-weaning dairy calves - Iona Riley	Forming a consensus statement on the use of antimicrobial prophylaxis during on-farm surgical procedures in cattle and sheep - Ameilia Sidwell and Beth Riley
12:00	Recruiting and supporting new graduate farm vets: practical lessons from independent practice - Beatrice Yates	Instinct into evidence: computer vision AI for objective comfort and behaviour assessment of housed dairy cows - Liz Cresswell and Robert Hyde
12:30	Dairy in the desert: inside the Middle East's mega farms - Rupert Sheppard	Innovation in farming - Craig Lewis
13:00	LUNCH	
	Holstein Room	Dexter Room
14:00	Adding serology to the bovine tuberculosis toolbox - Christoph Egli	Changes in Red Tractor - Jemma Holden
14:30	A new approach to Bovine TB - Keith Cutler	Motivational Interviewing: engaging clients in conversations about change - Alison Bard
15:00	Responsible use of medicines in the context of sustainable farming - Gwen Rees	Complaint resolution through mediation - Jennie Jones
15:30	Essentials of the CMA proposals for companion animal practice and possible knock-on effects for farm and mixed practice - Susie Samuel and Huw Aveston	
16:15	FINISH	

Workshops

Thursday 15th October

	<i>Jersey Room</i>	<i>Hereford Room</i>	<i>Hall 3 (A)</i>	<i>Hall 3 (B)</i>
13:00	LUNCH			
14:00	Bovine reproductive manual and ultrasound examination - <i>Peter May</i>	Focus on Fluke - a practical approach to diagnostics and control - <i>John Graham-Brown, Phillipa Page and Rebecca Mearns</i>	Thoracic Ultrasound scanning for BRD diagnosis and control: A practical taster session with live calves' <i>sponsored by</i>  - <i>Kat Baxter-Smith</i>	Goat Disbudding - <i>Ben Dustan</i>
15:00				
15:30	REFRESHMENTS			
16:00	Mastitis infection control workshop: interactive herd "case" examples - <i>James Breen, Jude Roberts and Julia Moorhouse</i>	We Buy Any Bull: How to demystify CHECS pen cards and EBVs for you and your clients - <i>Helen Carty and Martin Tomlinson</i>		
17:30	FINISH			

Friday 16th October

	<i>Jersey Room</i>	<i>Hereford Room</i>	<i>Hall 3 (A)</i>	<i>Hall 3 (B)</i>
09:00	SCOPS/COWS liver and rumen fluke focus - <i>John Graham-Brown, Phillipa Page, Rebecca Mearns</i>	Making dairy-beef count: the veterinary role in optimising integrated beef pathways from breeding to rearing a valuable calf - <i>Julia Moorhouse and Rose Jackson</i>	Supporting impactful hoof care as a practicing vet – developing practical skills to deliver positive mobility in cattle - <i>Jay Tunstall and Tim Carter</i>	Large animal casualty rescue and relocation methods - options and decision making - <i>Jim Green</i>
10:30	REFRESHMENTS			
11:00	Preparing ewes for lambing - <i>Joe Angell and Phillipa Page</i>	Extending colostrum feeding: practical strategies, real challenges - <i>Kat Hart</i>	Supporting impactful hoof care as a practicing vet – developing practical skills to deliver positive mobility in cattle - <i>Jay Tunstall and Tim Carter</i>	Large animal casualty rescue and relocation methods - options and decision making - <i>Jim Green</i>
12:30	LUNCH			
14:00	Advanced ultrasound skills: maximising diagnostics work-ups on farm - <i>Vicki Shepherd</i> 	From consult room to cow data: a hands-on workshop in practical AI for cattle vets - <i>Adele Williams-Xavier</i>	Postmortems - <i>Ben Strugnell</i>	
15:30	REFRESHMENTS			
16:00	Beyond blanket synchronisation: driving reproductive efficiency through dynamic, data-driven management - <i>Rosie Armstrong and Vicki Shepherd</i>	Youngstock that pays: practical strategies that actually get used on farm - <i>Ginny Sherwin and Laura Tennant</i>	Postmortems - <i>Ben Strugnell</i>	
17:30	FINISH			

Saturday 17th October

	<i>Jersey Room</i>	<i>Hereford Room</i>
09:00	Foot and Mouth Disease: Hope for the Best, Plan for the Worst - <i>Mandy Nevel and Alex Thomsett</i>	From gut feeling to hard Data: A hands-on workshop using computer vision AI to investigate cow comfort on real farms - <i>Liz Cresswell and Robert Hyde</i>
10:30	REFRESHMENTS	
11:00	Dry cow therapy and restrictions on 'routine antibiotic use': what have the Veterinary Medicines Regulations (2024) meant for you in practice? - <i>Alison Bard</i>	<i>Title to be confirmed</i> - <i>Prof Reinaldo Fernandes Cooke</i> <i>sponsored by</i> 
12:30	LUNCH	
14:00	Dairy fertility monitoring – can on farm technology give use better insights? - <i>Robert Smith</i>	Calf housing: getting the basics right – from quick fixes to new build designs - <i>Kat Hart</i>
15:30	FINISH	