

BCVA Congress 2025

















Programme

9th - 11th October

Edinburgh International Conference Centre, The Exchange,
150 Morrison St, Edinburgh, EH3 8EE



Key to colour-coding

 BVD	 General Practice	 Keynote	 Reproduction
 Calves	 Infectious Diseases	 Lameness	 Respiratory Disease
 Camelids	 Innovation	 Mastitis	 Sustainability
 Commercial	 Johne's	 Non-technical skills	 TB

Programme is subject to change

Thursday 9th October

		Lectures													
BY		Holstein Room		ES		Dexter Room									
09:00	A case series piloting a novel tool to measure parasiticide use and decision making in cattle - <i>Jenny Allan and Rob Howe</i>			Can Bulk Milk Revolutionise TB Testing? A study to examine the contribution of bulk milk testing to bovine tuberculosis (bTB) surveillance and control in Great Britain - <i>Alastair Hayton</i>											
09:15	The Nidderdale Dung Beetle Project: Sustainable parasite control in ruminant systems - <i>Ben Walker</i>														
09:30	BCVA Carbon Calculator benchmarking report - <i>Megan Williamson</i>														
09:45	Market Trading – a wakeup call for roundworm biosecurity - <i>Lynsey Melville</i>			Persistent bovine tuberculosis in a biosecure beef breeding herd - <i>Dick Sibley</i>											
10:00	Ruminant Antibiotic Stewardship Roadmap – Farm vets role in maintaining reputation, exports and consumer confidence - <i>Mark Jelley, Fiona Lovatt Gavin Morris and Emma Patterson-Taylor</i>														
10:15															
10:30	REFRESHMENT BREAK														
11:00	President's Address														
11:15	Designing a Healthy Farm System - <i>James Rebanks</i>														
12:15	Panel Discussion: Navigating dynamic and complex change														
12:30	Chair: Anthony Chadwick <i>Ele Brown, Tom McNeilly, James Rebanks, Willie Rennie MSP and Sheila Voas</i>			LR				Interstitial pneumonia in the GB cattle population - <i>Chris Burns</i>							
13:00								Optimising IBR control in GB dairy herds - <i>Karen Bond and Jude Roberts</i>							
13:15	REFRESHMENT BREAK														
JB		Holstein Room		NP		Dexter Room		Jersey Room		Hereford Room					
14:00	Delivering herd health planning for local, regional and national disease control programmes - <i>Dick Sibley</i>			Playful learning: Gamifying farm animal veterinary education to boost student engagement - <i>Hannah Davies, Rob Lawrence, Issa Robson, Matt Sanford</i>				ZS		A holistic approach to calf disease outbreaks <i>James Adams, George Lindley and Sophie Mahendran</i>		ES		Bull semen testing - how to avoid the ball's up's <i>Rob Anderson, Iain McCormick and Colin Penny</i>	
14:15															
14:30	How could we control infectious diseases more effectively? - <i>Peter Orpin</i>			Using mBAS on first lactation heifers at calving benefits the animal, the farmer and the environment - <i>Rob Drysdale</i>											
14:45															
15:00	An interesting outbreak - <i>Rachel Bragg and Alwyn Jones</i>			Opportunities in dairy-beef production systems – a blueprint to optimise performance - <i>Julia Moorhouse</i>											
15:15	Diversification and public health risks: shigatoxin producing <i>E. coli</i> update and best practice advice for farm enterprises - <i>Madeleine Henry and Sue Tongue</i>			Data Integrity – what it is and why it is important - <i>Lindsay Heasman</i>											
15:30	REFRESHMENT BREAK							ST							
16:00	The GB Dairy Cow Lameness Manifesto - what is it and why now? - <i>Owen Atkinson</i>			Streamline client communication with WhatsApp - <i>Susie Samuel</i>				ZS		Control of somatic cell count and clinical mastitis incidence rate: interactive case studies to challenge and help you! <i>James Breen, Jude Roberts and Julia Moorhouse</i>		RV		Bovine reproductive manual and ultrasound examination <i>Peter May</i>	
16:30	Upper limb lameness in cattle - <i>Karin Mueller</i>			Building Great Workplaces - why should culture matter to cattle vets? - <i>Rob Williams</i>											
17:00	Effect of hoof trimming using a roll-over crush on heart rate variability and eye temperature in dairy cattle - <i>Nicola Blackie</i>			Continuous long-term mapping of environmental parameters withing different calf housing shed designs - <i>Sophie Mahendran and George Lindley</i>											
17:15	A randomised controlled field trial of an adhesive gel bandage in addition to topical antibiotic treatment of digital dermatitis in dairy cows - <i>Nick Britten and Rachel Hayton</i>														
17:30	FINISH														

Friday 10th October

Lectures			Workshops	
	GH <i>Holstein Room</i>	JA <i>Dexter Room</i>	<i>Jersey Room</i>	<i>Hereford Room</i>
08:30	Scottish BVD Eradication Scheme: What have we achieved so far and what is coming in Phase 6? - <i>Helen Carty</i>	Feeding and activity behaviours in scouring calves with or without dehydration - <i>Beth Riley</i>		
08:45	BVD Eradication Scheme: Do we have to worry about sheep? A case study of a calf persistently infected with Border Disease Virus - <i>Helen Carty</i>	A survey of outcomes in suckler herds with extended spring calving seasons - <i>Ellie Button</i>		
09:00	Practical strategies for BVDV monitoring post-eradication - <i>Jonas Brock, David Graham and Maria Guelbenzu</i>	Colostrum quality in neonatal ruminants: A hygiene focus - <i>Katie Denholm and Ali Haggerty</i>		
09:30	Plotting the path to BVD Eradication in NI – the role of the veterinary practitioner - <i>Sharon Verner</i>	The 90+ Club: Insights from two years of tracking calf losses from breeding to weaning - <i>Anna Bruguera-Sala</i>	LR Supporting impactful hoof care as a practicing vet – developing practical skills to deliver positive mobility in cattle <i>James Wilson</i>	BY Opportunities to engage with sheep and beef farmers over their data – KPIs, medicines and more <i>Chris Hudson and Fiona Lovatt</i>
10:00	Investigating the impact of neonatal calf diarrhoea vaccination and optimised management on calf growth rates in dairy farms, using univariate and machine learning methods for multivariate analysis - <i>Jonathan Statham</i> 	Colostrum supplements and replacers tools to increase calf immunity - <i>Bianca Theeruth</i> 		
10:30	REFRESHMENT BREAK			
11:00	Thinking like a mountain - <i>Peter Cairns</i>	DB	RN	ME
12:00	What keeps me awake at night? A year in cattle disease surveillance - <i>Vanessa Swinson</i>	Cattle clinical conditions encountered, and the ruminant clinical skills performed by veterinary students during their work-placed based final year clinical rotations - <i>Peter Cockcroft</i>	Improving delivery and engagement in the Healthy Feet Programme including demonstration of the new Healthy Feet App <i>James Wilson</i>	Using the new Johnes' Pattern Analysis Tool report – identifying routes of transmission and hidden high-risk cows <i>Andrew Bradley and Al Manning</i>
12:15		To be (a cyst), or not to be? That is NOT the question - <i>Vicki Shepherd</i>		
12:30	What do we know about antimicrobial resistance at a population level in healthy British cattle?: BAmRCS and other studies - <i>Madeleine Henry and Sue Tongue</i>	Digital dairy chain and ovation agriculture in advancing agricultural innovation - <i>Michael Christian and Jillian Gordon</i>		
13:00	LR	AIC	LUNCH	
14:00	AGM	Validation of the diagnostic accuracy of the 3M™ Petrifilm™ coliform and aerobic count plates to measure colostrum bacterial contamination on Scottish dairy farms - <i>Tracy Anderson</i>	NB Bitesize Biosecurity: a farmer-centric approach to the communication of information and advice about animal biosecurity <i>Alexander Carmichael, Andrew Duncan and Kate Lamont</i>	AM Benchmarking the future of your dairy herds: post-weaning to first lactation <i>Emily Payne and Jess Reynolds</i>
14:15		Analysis of colostral Brix percentage at harvest, storage and feeding on Scottish dairy farms and associated farm level risk factors - <i>Emily Silva</i>		
14:30		Can we have reliable chemistry with the dead? - <i>Alan Murphy</i>		
15:00	Copper Toxicity – An emerging issue in dairy bred calves - <i>Alan Murphy</i>	Using milk ELISA data to highlight the impact of Johnes's Disease on dairy cattle productivity - <i>Emma Taylor-Holt</i>		
15:30	AC	DB	REFRESHMENT BREAK	
16:00	Tackling food crime in Scotland and its relevance to the cattle industry - <i>Ron McNaughton</i>	Using 'LAMP' ('Loop-Mediated Isothermal Application') as a veterinary practice based rapid diagnostic approach for mastitis in dairy cows - <i>Jonathan Statham</i>	NP Camelids for Cattle Vets <i>Karin Mueller and Ami Sawran</i>	RJ Using Johnes' Control to build strong vet: farmer relationships. What can we learn from a veterinary practice that has successfully reduced Johnes's levels in over 90% of client herds? <i>James Hanks, Peter Orpin, Debby Brown and Emma Taylor-Holt</i>
16:30	From imports to imitations - the work of the VMD Enforcement Team - <i>Andy Parker</i>	A review of point of care diagnostics for bovine mastitis therapeutics – aims, research evidence and considerations for your clients - <i>James Breen</i>		
17:00	Emergency slaughter and late term slaughter - <i>Elena McWatt</i>	Correlation of serum IgG with indirect measures of passive immunity transfer in dairy and dairy-cross calves - <i>Ryan Davies and Dave Renaud</i>		
17:15		Impact of passive immunity and IgG from transition milk on pre-weaning dairy and dairy-beef cross calf health in a pasture-based block calving system: A cohort study - <i>Ryan Davies</i>		
17:30	FINISH			

Saturday 11th October

Lectures		Workshops		
	AC <i>Holstein Room</i>	ME <i>Dexter Room</i>	Jersey Room	Hereford Room
09:00	Beef farmers' knowledge, attitudes and behaviour regarding herd fertility and the role of the vet - <i>Ruth Cranston</i>	Scottish BVD Eradication Scheme: What top tips can we pass on and what pitfalls should you avoid? - <i>Jenny Purcell</i>	RH A Bovine History of Veterinary Medicine (a walking tour) - <i>Nicole Bell and Andrew Gardiner</i>	AIC Active allyship in challenging situations <i>Issa Robson and Tobias Hunter</i>
09:15	584 cattle caesarean sections - what we learnt in first opinion practice - <i>Charlotte Bain</i>	BVD eradication in Wales – Progress to date and lessons learned - <i>Neil Paton</i>		
09:45	Predicting a cow's future breeding potential based on structures present on the ovary at a post natal examination - <i>Tracy Anderton</i>	BVD Panel Discussion - <i>Helen Carty, Maria Guelbenzu (other speakers TBC)</i>		
10:00	Using mBAS pheromone in beef calves at weaning and castration can have real production and sustainability benefits - <i>Oliver Giles</i>			
10:15	High-resolution respirometry reveals mitochondrial impairment in milk-derived cells from lame dairy cows - <i>Nial O'Boyle</i>	What the milk powder labels don't tell you - <i>Kat Hart and Laura Tennant</i>		
10:30	REFRESHMENT BREAK			
	NB	RH		
11:00	Can gut microbiome signatures be used to assess the health and productivity status of dairy cattle? - <i>Nisha Tucker</i>	Compassion Fatigue, Burnout and Moral Injury - <i>Rosie Allister</i>	RJ Coaching skills for farm vets <i>Zoe Shepherd</i>	RN What the milk powder labels don't tell you <i>Kat Hart and Laura Tennant</i>
11:15	Proof-of-Concept study for contactless vital signs monitoring in animals using micro-doppler radar - <i>Konstantina Linardopoulou and Lorenzo Viora</i>			
11:30	ECHOVI: Advancing automated mobility assessment in dairy cattle - <i>Konstantina Linardopoulou and Lorenzo Viora</i>	Hypocalcaemia in dairy cows; measure and check soil health - <i>Jamie Robertson</i>		
12:00	A randomised controlled trial evaluating the impact of an automated mobility monitoring system on reproductive performance and foot health in dairy cows - <i>Nektarios Siachos</i>	Predict and preserve: a micro-RNA based Johne's Disease diagnostic test - <i>Robert Coultous</i>		
12:15	Successful caesareans for those lacking in confidence or experience. An evidence-based approach to reducing the trepidation of a middle-of-the-night-surgery! - <i>Rebecca Howard</i>			
12:30	Results of the bridging the gap member survey - where to go next? - <i>James Adams</i>	CoolCows! Using genomics and IVF to rapidly breed more methane-efficient, sustainable cattle - <i>Emma Stuart</i>		
13:00	LUNCH			
	GH <i>Holstein Room</i>	AM <i>Dexter Room</i>		
14:00	Dung beetle project - <i>Anuschka Marsman</i>	Utilising behaviour change models to improve the uptake of NSAIDs for calf diseases on cattle farms: a survey-based study - <i>Mascha Sohrmann</i>		
14:15		The impact of early life social housing on dairy calf play behaviour in the neonatal and post-weaning periods - <i>Ciara McKay</i>		
14:30	Ten years of TST: reflections on the use of Targeted Selective Treatment (TST) in a commercial organic suckler beef herd in Scotland - <i>Kathryn Ellis</i>	Associations of neonatal and early life calf management with fertility performance in primiparous heifers - <i>Charlie Parker</i>		
14:45	Closing the gap to 2030: where are we now, and how can we reach our dairy greenhouse gas emission reduction targets? - <i>Helen Dent</i>	Determining iodine status of bovines - <i>Harry Papworth</i>		
15:00		Myostatin variants in UK beef bulls: how prevalent are they, and how do farmers use them? - <i>Kaz Strycharczyk</i>		
15:15	Schmallenburg in Scotland: a year in review - <i>Martin Tomlinson</i>	A holistic approach to reduction of Udder Cleft Dermatitis in a Dairy Herd in the South-West of England - <i>Mike Kerby</i>		
15:30	Congenital brain lesions in calves caused by bluetongue virus serotype 3 infection - <i>Annalisa Loria</i>	The use of a transfixation pin cast (TPC) to manage a metatarsal physéal fracture in a calf - <i>Fergus Neish</i>		
15:45	A study on the impact of BTV-3 on confirmed premises for the 2024-2025 outbreak - <i>Sam Partridge</i>	The Animal Health and Welfare Pathway – animal health and welfare review and the endemics schemes - <i>James Russell, Jonathan Statham and Defra</i>		
16:15	FINISH			