



Winter Newsletter 25/26

TB testing summary - 2024/2025

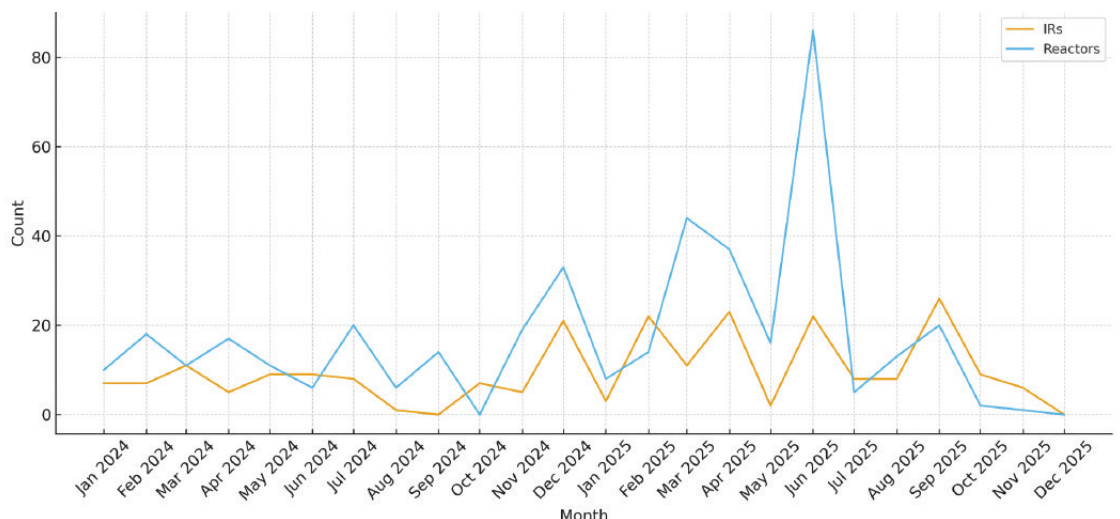
Recently, several clients have asked how TB results are looking across the practice – a question that has prompted Gavin to review our data and trends to give an overview. In 2024, the practice completed 482 TB tests, compared with 423 tests completed so far in 2025 (as of 21st November). Over the same periods, our team has tested 76,570 cattle in 2024 and 62,632 cattle in 2025 to date. We have seen an increase in both inconclusive reactors (IRs) - from 90 in 2024 to 140 in 2025 – and reactors, which have risen from 165 to 246. While this is disappointing to see, these trends broadly mirror the wider regional trends reported by APHA.

To help mitigate the risk of TB, we encourage clients to consider the following:

- Regularly check the ibTB map, especially before attending sales/making purchases
- Avoid breeding from resolved IRs and instead cull at the end of their lactation, as evidence suggests that these animals are twelve times more likely to become a reactor at a future test
- Engage with the TB Advisory Service (TBAS) – free, tailored TB advice specific to your farm delivered by our vets

If you would like to discuss your herd's current TB risk or arrange a TBAS visit, please contact the office.

Monthly IR & Reactor Trend (2024-2025)



Keeping your calves healthy this winter



- a message from vet Emily

We all want calves to stay healthy and grow efficiently, so it is important to provide them with the best nutrition

possible and minimise environmental pressures. Following our Proactive Farmer's meeting this summer, we have had several clients reporting significant improvements in calf health following a change in milk powder. While we can't recommend specific brands, we are always happy to advise and help you compare products you are considering. Please get in touch if you are thinking of changing your milk powder or would like help understanding the composition of your current one.

Freeze branding service reminder

Now that the cattle are housed, our vet techs are starting to get busy with freeze branding. This service is charged per animal. If you would like to get your cattle branded this winter, please get in touch to book.



First aid on farm course

With farming recognised as one of the most dangerous occupations in the UK, safety on farm should never be taken lightly. Last month, our team invited Greenway Training to host an Emergency First Aid at Work & Forestry (EFAW+F) course, focusing on both general first aid and a range of real-life scenarios that could occur on farm. The day combined theory and practical sessions, where attendees learnt how to apply bandages, perform CPR, and manage common farm-related emergencies such as crush injuries and severe bleeding. All attendees successfully passed the course and received a FAA Level 3 qualification in Emergency First Aid at work which is valid for three years. The course received fantastic feedback, with participants commenting on how useful and practical the training was; therefore, we are hoping to run another session soon. If you would like to take part in the next course, please contact the office to register your interest.



Dispensary update:

- **Tylan 200** – has been discontinued; we will now be stocking Pharmasin instead (withdrawal times will remain the same)
- **Norodine** – is still out of stock and we currently have Censulfatrim as a replacement (withdrawal times will remain the same)
- **Heptavac** – 50 ml bottles are back in stock, however we are still waiting on bigger bottles
- **Blackleg vaccine** – is expected to be back in stock during December
- **Synulox Lactating Cow Tubes** – are out of stock, but we have Mastic-Lacto available as an alternative (withdrawal times will remain the same)
- **Lambivac** – is being discontinued, please call to discuss alternatives
- **Solantel 50 mg/ml oral suspension for sheep** – the meat withdrawal has increased from 42 days to 56 days.
- **Lepto vaccines:** Leptavoid has been discontinued. Spirovac is expected to return in early 2026 but will only be available via veterinary practices, not retail. Until then, we have a good supply of the imported alternative, Bio-Bos.

Team update

In October, we said goodbye to Charlotte, one of our farm team coordinators. We wish her all the best in her next venture, although we are sure we will still see her popping in for a regular coffee when collecting dispensing.

Nikki has recently joined as a farm team coordinator. We first worked with her a few years ago at Longleat Safari Park, where she was a senior hoof stock keeper. After taking some time out to have her two children, she has returned to work and joined our team. Nikki moved to Frome in 2007 and enjoys exploring the local area with her family. She is looking forward to meeting you all in the office soon.



Keep your eyes peeled for another new friendly face! Lewis will be joining the team as a vet in January and cannot wait to get out on farm to meet you all.

Frome Christmas Fatstock Show

At the end of November we proudly sponsored Frome Fatstock Society's 125th Annual Christmas Show. This year we sponsored the 'Young Farmers Best Beef Bred Steer or Heifer' class. Chris was there to present the award, and we would like to congratulate Harry Stamp from Bowbridge Farm for being crowned the overall winner. It was a fantastic opportunity to catch up with clients at a well-supported event and to see some of the very best breeds on show. Well done to everyone who took part in the show.



Christmas Raffle Hamper in Support of Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance

We are running a charity raffle this month to raise funds for Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance, a service that delivers rapid, lifesaving emergency care to our rural community. To support their work, we have put together a fantastic hamper filled with items and vouchers generously donated by local businesses – including locally produced food and drink, gift vouchers, and agricultural supplies. Raffle tickets will be available to purchase from the practice reception and at farm visits throughout the month. The winner will be announced at our Annual Christmas Medicine Collection on Friday 19th December. We are incredibly grateful to all who donated items for the hamper and to everyone taking part. Your support helps ensure that this vital service remains available for those who may one day need it.



Lung Scanning Your Youngstock

With youngstock now housed and recent inconsistent weather, we are seeing an increase in pneumonia cases. To help stay ahead of the problem, we are offering lung scanning of calves to facilitate early detection and guide decision-making around which heifers to keep as replacements.

Lung scarring can significantly reduce growth rates and overall performance; therefore identifying issues early is key. If you would like to discuss lung scanning or explore pneumonia diagnostics to determine which bacteria and viruses are circulating in your calves, please get in touch.



Are you ready for lambing?

With Christmas around the corner, it may feel premature to start thinking about Spring. However, good preparation now can make all the difference once lambing is in full swing. A clean environment, well-managed ewes, and plenty of high-quality colostrum are the foundation of a successful season – all of which can be influenced by management changes made well before the first lamb hits the ground.

Below are some key considerations to help ensure your flock and team, are ready for the busy time ahead:

- **Nutrition:** Monitor body condition scores regularly and feed according to scanning results to minimise cervical prolapses and avoid weak lambs and twin lamb disease.
- **Metabolic profiling:** Assess energy, protein, and mineral levels 2–3 weeks pre-lambing to allow timely ration adjustments, reducing the risk of twin lamb disease and supporting good colostrum production.
- **Vaccinations:** Ensure Clostridial/Pasteurella boosters are given 4–6 weeks pre-lambing to improve colostrum quality.
- **Parasite control:** Treat only where needed based on risk and faecal egg counts.
- **Foot health:** Address lameness now; sound ewes eat better, lamb more easily, and stand to let lambs suckle.
- **Lambing environment:** Remove old bedding, disinfect thoroughly, and allow sheds to dry. Ensure good ventilation without draughts.
- **Colostrum:** Aim for 50 ml/kg within the first 4–6 hours of life. Keep frozen colostrum and a commercial replacer ready. Colostrum quality can be checked using a refractometer or by monitoring the lamb's total proteins in the first week.

Lambing kit checklist

- **For the ewe:** gloves, lube, lambing ropes, disinfectant, calcium/propylene glycol.
- **For the lamb:** stomach tube and syringe, bottles/teats, 10% iodine, colostrum (fresh/frozen/replacer), whisk and jug, heat source, lambing rings and applicator (if castrating).
- **General:** needles, syringes, thermometer, head torch, clean buckets, disinfectant, stock markers, towels.



Riddle time...

What bites but doesn't have any teeth?

Frost

Useless fact

Did you know that Wombats produce cube-shaped poo.

Dates for your diary:

Christmas Drug Collection – Friday 19th December 2025

Join us from from 12 pm to 2 pm at the practice for mulled wine and mince pies as we celebrate the festive season. This is also a great opportunity to collect any medicines you may need over the Christmas period.

Lambing Course – Wednesday 28th January 2026

Join Katie for a full day covering lambing theory and hands-on practice correcting common dystocia's and carrying out husbandry tasks.

Other upcoming courses

Beef Benchmarking

Alex will be holding his annual Beef Benchmarking meeting, focusing on improving productivity and efficiency around calving. Keep an eye on our social media for the confirmed date.

AI Course

Are you or your staff looking at learning a new skill? James will be running a 3-day APHA-approved DIY AI course.

Foot Trimming

James will be running the following LANTRA-approved foot-trimming courses in the New Year:

- **First Aid for Feet (LANTRA Level 1)** – A one-day course covering basic foot anatomy, lesion identification, and appropriate treatments.
- **Intermediate Hoof Trimming (LANTRA Level 3)** – A three-day course designed for individuals with prior hoof-trimming experience who want to develop confidence in routine trimming and lesion management.

Please contact the office if you would like to register your interest in any of these courses.



WYVERN FARM VETS

Christmas Open Hours

Wednesday 24 th Dec	8:30am - 4:30pm
Thursday 25 th Dec	CLOSED
Friday 26 th Dec	CLOSED
Saturday 27 th Dec	CLOSED
Sunday 28 th Dec	CLOSED
Monday 29 th Dec	8:30am - 5pm
Tuesday 30 th Dec	8:30am - 5pm
Wednesday 31 st Dec	8:30am - 5pm
Thursday 1 st Dec	CLOSED

We will have a Vet on-call 24/7 over the festive period
Please call us on 01373 451115.



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The team at Wyvern would like to wish all our clients a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

