



Animal &  
Plant Health  
Agency

# Bluetongue in cattle

## Know the signs

Bluetongue serotype 3 (BTV-3) is circulating on the eastern side of England. The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) and Defra have declared bluetongue zones spanning several counties to help control further spread of the disease. You can find out more and check whether you are in a bluetongue zone by visiting [gov.uk/bluetongue](http://gov.uk/bluetongue).

**Bluetongue is a notifiable disease and must be reported by law.** You are not permitted to move any animal showing these clinical signs and if you see any of these signs you must report it to APHA.

### Clinical signs to look out for in cattle

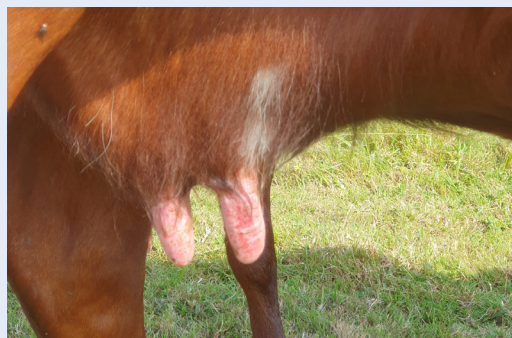
- lethargy
- crusting and erosions around the nostrils and muzzle
- conjunctivitis and excessive tear staining
- redness of the mouth, eyes, nose
- reddening of the skin above the hoof and between the cleats
- nasal discharge
- reddening and erosions on the teats
- fever
- milk drop
- not eating
- abortion, foetal deformities and stillbirths

Adult cattle may be infectious for several weeks while showing little or no sign of disease. They are often the preferred host for biting midges (the vector of bluetongue virus).

### Clinical signs in calves

Calves can become infected with bluetongue virus before birth if the mother is infected while pregnant. Signs of infection include:

- calves born small, weak, deformed or blind
- death of calves within a few days of birth
- stillbirths



Reddening and erosions on the teats

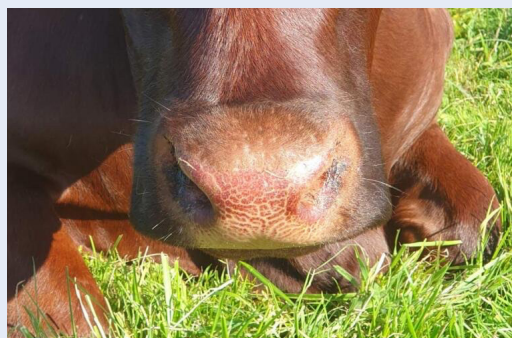
© A Allen



Red interdigital cleft



Ulceration in nostrils



Crusting around nostril

© A Allen

Find out more information and how to report bluetongue by visiting [www.gov.uk/bluetongue](http://www.gov.uk/bluetongue)

