



British Boer Goat Society

Email: bbgs.secretary@gmail.com

May 2025.

Dear Members,

May has arrived, bringing brighter days and more time outdoors. We hope you are enjoying the sunshine and that your goats are making the most of their time out on pasture. It is a busy season on the farm, and we trust everything is running smoothly for you and your herd.



Just a quick reminder — it is that time of year when we are doing batch registrations.

It can get a little confusing, so make sure you have got all your documents ready before you start.

Grassroots constantly update their system — if anything is missing or wrong, it will now flash red and bounce back to the Registration Secretary.

So please double-check everything (even give it a triple-check!) before you hit submit.

Please when making a payment to BBGS by either BACS or PayPal could you please add your membership number and a reference to your payment i.e.

Transfer, Membership or Reg.

Thank You!

2025 Show dates.

Royal Three Counties Show

Friday 13th June – Sunday 15th June
2025

International judge: Mr Pierre
Bouwer SA

ENTRIES NOW CLOSED!!!!

Hanbury Countryside Show

Saturday 5th July 2025

Judge: Mr Brian Perry

<https://www.hanburyshow.co.uk/>

ENTRIES OPEN NOW!!

Entries close: 17th June 2025

New for 2025!

Royal Lancashire Agricultural show

Friday 18th- Sunday 20th July 2025

Judge: Miss Marie Smith

ENTRIES OPEN NOW!!!

Entries close: 30th June 2025

[Home- The Royal Lancashire
Agricultural Show](#)

New for 2025!

Burwarton Show

Thursday 7th August 2025

Judge: Mrs Ruth Keys

[Burwarton Show – Burwarton](#)

BBGS MEMBERS OFFER!!

Any BBGS member that would like to
attend any of the BBGS supported
shows.

The BBGS will refund your ticket price!!

Here are the dates for your diary:

- Royal Three Counties Show, 14th
or 15th June 2025
- Hanbury Countryside Show, 5th
July 2025
- Royal Lancashire Agricultural show,
19th or 20th July 2025
- Burwarton Show 7th August 2025

Single members- 1 Adult ticket price
refunded.

Joint members- 1 1/2 Adult ticket
price refunded.

Truly a wonderful opportunity!

BBGS Advice to Exhibitors.

Entries for this year's **Royal Three Counties Show** are at an all-time high – it is shaping up to be a fantastic event with many new faces joining us!

To help you make the most of your experience and ensure everything runs smoothly, we have put together this helpful guide.

Representing Your Herd and the British Boer Goat

On show day, you are not only displaying your animals but also representing your herd and the British Boer Goat breed. Making a great impression matters – and that includes both presentation and conduct.

What to Wear – Practical and Professional

A tidy and appropriate appearance reflects pride in your animals and respect for the Judge and the Show.

Here is what we recommend:

-  Clean white coat, these can be bought online, or at stands at the show.
 -  Shirt with a collar (Polo shirt is acceptable)
 -  You are welcome to wear a tie, but it is not essential
-  Black jeans are ideal (they really help show your goats to their best!)
-  Clean denim jeans are acceptable – but **no rips or cuts**, please
 -  Sturdy, clean footwear – **no trainers or open shoes**
 -  No shorts
 - Be prepared for all types of weather.
- A neat and well-groomed appearance always goes a long way!



Ring Etiquette and Show Day Tips

- **Arrive in good time** – allow plenty of time to get ready for your class, goats always surprise you on the morning with a fresh stain or two.
- **Politeness and respect** toward fellow exhibitors and show staff is essential.
- **In the show ring**, even if you know the Judge personally, please address them formally as **'Sir' or 'Madam'** – it helps maintain the professionalism of the event.
- **Listen carefully** and follow instructions from the Judge and Steward.
- Do not forget to **bring your CAE Certificates and Movement Forms** – these must be handed to the BBGS Steward.

Finally... Enjoy the Experience!

We hope you enjoy every moment of the show. Whether it is your first time, or you are a seasoned exhibitor, your participation helps make this event special.

See you in the ring – and best of luck!

TIPS ON KEEPING YOUR GOATS FREE FROM DISEASE PROBLEMS!

David Harwood BVetMed, FRCVS.

Former Hon Vet BGS / past president Goat Veterinary Society.

I recently read an article in the farming press described the anguish faced by a sheep farmer who eventually culled around 4000 ewes due to an outbreak of Maedi Visna (MV) in his flock. He had been concerned for some time about poor lamb growth rates, wasting ewes and increasing ewe mortality that eventually prompted a full investigation that confirmed that this awful disease had taken hold in the flock.

This article got me thinking about how the awful experience of this sheep farmer could be used in a positive way by goat owners to ensure that they can avoid these problems.

MV and a group of similar diseases that include Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis (CAE), Johne's Disease and Caseous Lymphadenitis (CLA) are all described as insidious diseases. By using the term insidious we mean that it is a slowly developing disease that can enter a flock or herd "under the radar" and remain unnoticed until clinical cases begin to develop by which time it will already be established.

We also describe this group as "Iceberg" diseases, in which for every case that is displaying typical clinical signs of the condition (the "tip" of the iceberg), there are many others that are either early unrecognised clinical cases, sub-clinically infected or even healthy but carrier animals (the base of the iceberg). In practical terms, when clinical disease is first confirmed, the disease itself is likely to be well established in the herd, with an owner often completely unaware of its presence.

Each of these conditions can "creep into a herd unnoticed" then become established by spreading within the herd – yet no clinical signs may be evident for months and even years, before the first signs of illness are seen.

It is so important to know the health status of goats in your herd, this can be achieved either by simply keeping a mental (or other more reliable) record of problems confirmed in your flock or by laboratory testing of e.g. blood and faeces samples – or a combination of the two. Knowing the health status of your own goats forms the foundations to ensuring that your herd remains fit and healthy, thereby reducing the risk of facing the anguish faced by the sheep farmer.

Biosecurity:

The key word to all this is "biosecurity" – a term used to describe "the prevention of disease-causing organisms entering or leaving any place where they can pose a risk to farm animals, other animals, humans, or the safety and quality of a food product."

These organisms can be bacteria, viruses, parasites, or other infectious / contagious agents.

It is important at the outset to recognise that biosecurity is a two-way process. We tend to use the term to describe the measures needed on a farm or smallholding to prevent new infections from gaining access. The reason I discussed the importance of knowing the health status of your own goats is that you may well already have a health problem in your herd to which your goats have developed an immunity and are tolerant of its presence. This health problem may present a risk to any incoming naive goat that has not encountered it previously – hence “two-way.”

Assessing the risks:

By far the most significant risk is a new addition to the herd, either a goat from another owner / premises / dealer / market (or sheep onto a mixed species unit as many infectious agents are shared between goats and sheep). Every goat unit should with the help of their own vet, have a clear protocol for introducing new goats to the herd.

Such a protocol should include as a minimum:

1. A plan to place the incoming goat(s) into quarantine away from the home herd. This does not need to be an elaborate building with search lights and barbed wire around it – but merely some form of shelter (or in fine weather a paddock or part of a paddock with shelter) separated from your own goats by a gap of as near 10 metres as possible. Individual goats should never be placed in isolation alone and should always be placed within the sight and sound of other goats or run with a companion kept in quarantine with it. This quarantine period should be a minimum of 14 days and longer if possible.
2. Incoming goats should be checked over on arrival and on a regular basis while in quarantine, looking for any evidence of:
 - A. Lameness (foot rot can be a particularly devastating problem in a naïve herd).
 - B. Lumps or swellings (these may indicate the presence of CLA).
 - C. Hair loss, rubbing could be a sign of ectoparasites such as lice.
 - D. Diarrhoea may be a sign of worms but remember that many healthy goats can carry a significant worm burden capable of contaminating your pasture – and a particular problem as an incoming goat can introduce anthelmintic resistant worms to your premises. It is advisable to give incoming goats a quarantine worming dose on arrival.
3. Discussing with your own vet any concerns you may have during your regular goat health checks. Also discuss with your vet about laboratory tests that can help reduce the risks. The most important one is a simple blood test to check

for CAE- if your herd is currently free of CAE the introduction of one single CAE positive goat could have serious long-term implications for your herd. Goats can also be tested for CLA via the same blood sample. If your incoming goat has come from a known high-risk area for bovine TB, then your vet may also suggest undertaking a TB skin test.

4. Be aware of the national health schemes that are available (e.g., The Premium Sheep and Goat Health Scheme). Members of this scheme have achieved high health status for diseases such as CAE and Johne's disease. You may consider joining one of these schemes yourself or purchasing goats from accredited herds within the scheme.

Other risk factors to consider include:

- Sharing equipment or facilities. Borrowing a weigh crate or trailer from a neighbour (with either goats or sheep) will carry a risk, particularly if it is visibly contaminated with faeces, has foot trimmings on the floor (foot rot risk), or is contaminated with the pus from a burst CLA abscess (CLA pus can survive in the environment for up to 3 months). If you must borrow, make sure it is visibly clean, and disinfect before use. Borrowing drenching gun equipment, foot paring equipment may be necessary – but again – clean and disinfect before use.

- Wildlife can carry and introduce infections to susceptible goat herds. Examples include Badgers gaining access to feeding areas and water troughs in known TB areas. Information on TB control in small goat herds can be found on the Goat Veterinary Society website. Rats, mice, and wild birds contaminating feed and bedding stores –these can introduce bacterial infections such as salmonella and Yersinia. Rodent control is always important as is having secure feed bins.

- Cats are often incriminated in sudden outbreaks of abortion linked to Toxoplasma infection. If you have cats around your goats, then having them neutered is a sensible move to prevent unwanted breeding and producing litters of kittens in and around feed and bedding stores where toxoplasma proliferation and contamination can most readily arise.



Blue tongue

Latest update from the Gov.uk website – 23rd May 2025

On 1 July 2025 the restricted zone for bluetongue will be extended to cover all of England. This means that from this date you will be able to move animals within England without a bluetongue licence or test.

Vaccination remains the most effective long-term option for disease control. You are encouraged to discuss BTV-3 vaccine with your vet to determine if it is right for your animals. If you vaccinate your animals, you must report it within 48 hours.

Until 12 June 2025

The current **pre-movement testing exemptions** apply in England, Scotland and Wales.

From 12 June 2025

The current **pre-movement testing exemptions** will be extended until 23:59 on 30 June 2025 in England. This means you still won't need to test non-breeding animals over 60 days old before moving them from the restricted zone to a premises in England.

Pre-movement testing exemptions until 30th June 2025

Pre-movement testing exemptions have been extended to 12 June 2025. This means that you do not have to test non-breeding animals over 60 days old before moving them out of the restricted zone.

You must [apply for a specific movement licence](#) to move animals out of the restricted zone.

The animals you currently have to test are:

- entire males intended for breeding.
- females that are pregnant or have unknown pregnancy status.
- youngstock that are under 60 days old at the time of movement - these animals require a single test before they can be moved - unless they are travelling at foot with the maternal dam, in which case you can just test the maternal dam by PCR and ELISA
- animals being moved for germinal product collection (ova, semen, or embryo)

This exemption may end sooner if the risk of bluetongue transmission increases.

From 27 May 2025, the length of time that pre-movement test samples are valid is changing from 21 days to 10 days. Samples taken:

- until 11:59pm on 26 May 2025 are valid for 21 days
- on or after 27 May 2025 are valid for 10 days

You must time your sampling so that the samples are still valid on the planned move date. For more updates check following links.

From 1 July

You will be able to move animals within England without a bluetongue licence or testing.

Wales and Scotland will announce changes to their controls by 12 June 2025 on [GOV.WALES](https://gov.uk) and gov.scot.

[Bluetongue: news, information, and guidance for livestock keepers- GOV.UK](#)

[Bluetongue virus latest news | AHDB](#)

[Bluetongue \(BTV\) – NFUonline](#)

Best regards
Trustees of the British Boer Goat Society