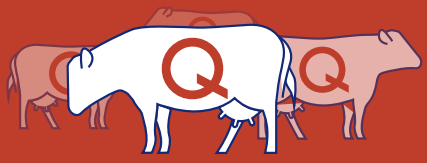
Q FEVER NEWS UPDATE
AUTUMN 2024



Hello and welcome to our third Q fever newsletter

We are timing this newsletter with an update to our Q fever heat map having exceeded 900 herd Q Tests since 2020. We continue to see a strong positive to negative ratio of around 46%. This understandably varies by county and the number of tests undertaken in each county and we still have a few counties that have not returned any Q Tests. Herds tested were all showing some clinical signs of Q fever.

We are also pleased to be able to share two new testimonials from farmers who are now vaccinating their herds. Video recordings of these and vet testimonials are available to view online. There is also an update from the European Q fever Committee. As always, if you have any queries or questions around Q fever, please speak to your Territory Manager or myself.

Best regards, Katherine

Katherine Timms
National Ruminant Veterinary Advisor
katherine.timms@ceva.com

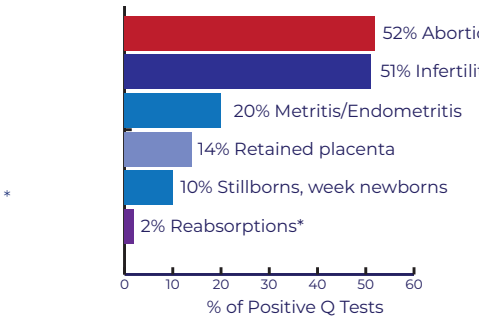
Diagnosis Dashboard

Q Test - BTM PCR

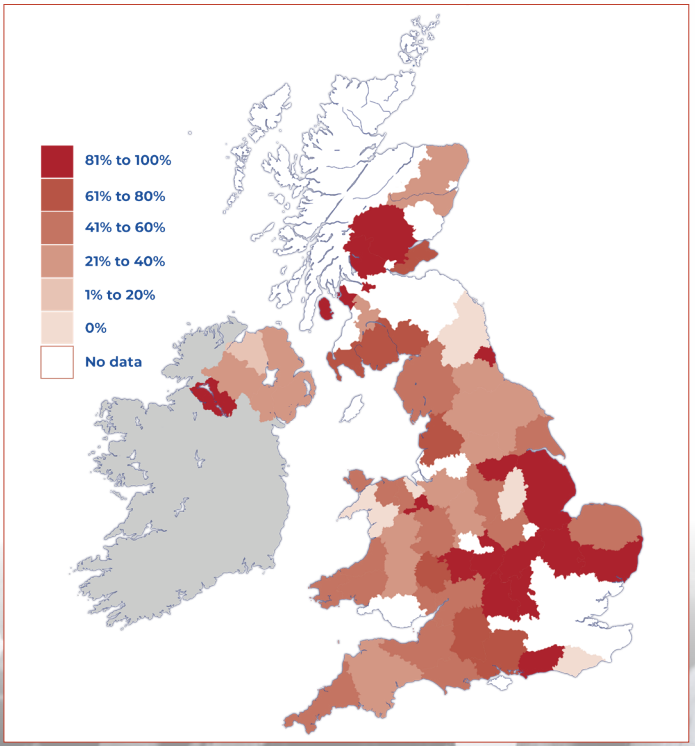
- **900** BTM samples tested since 2020
- **46%** of which received a positive diagnosis for Q fever
- Over **25%** of the positive cases (as diagnosed by the Q Test) have commenced vaccinating

Data collated upto and including 30th Sept 25[1]

Challenges reported in all positive herds



Note on reabsorption data: in mid 2023 several new cases specifically reported 'reabsorptions' within the positive herds. Prior to this point no data was gathered routinely at sampling for the Q Test relating to reabsorptions, so it may be under represented here.

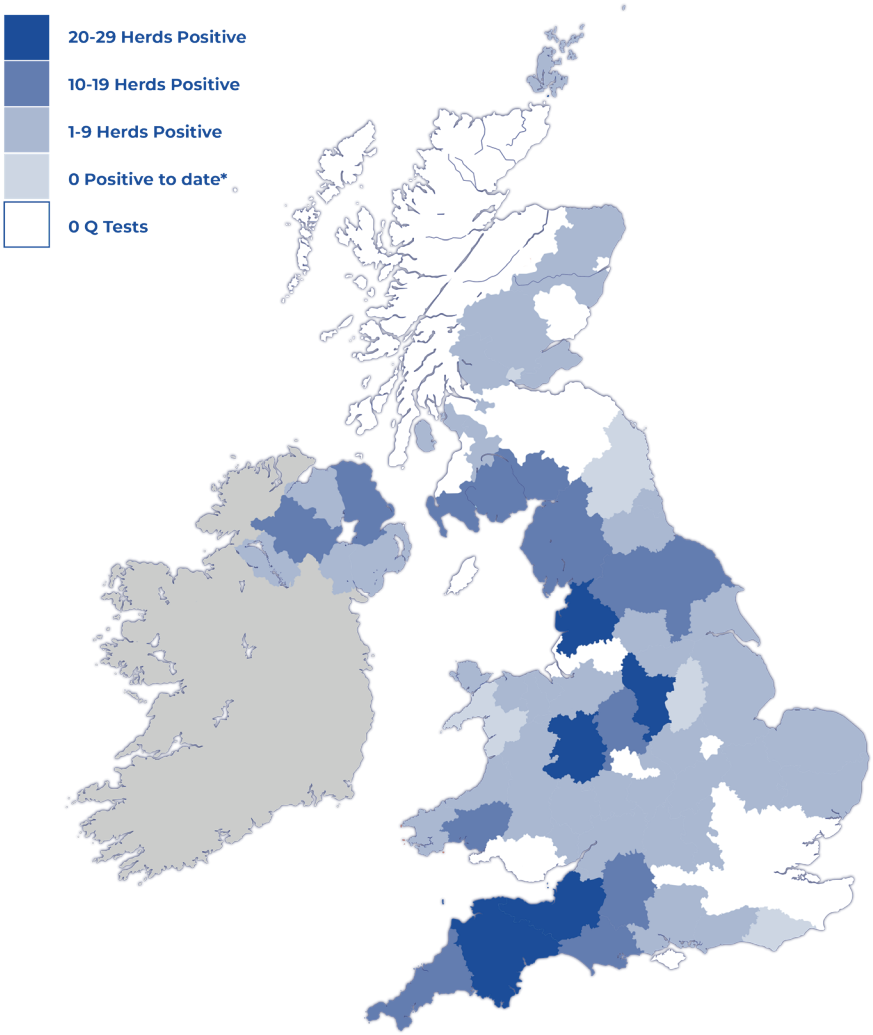


Q Fever Map showing incidence of Q fever as diagnosed by Q Test (PCR)[1]

Total number of tests reported on map: 900.
Number of tests by county varies from 71 to 0.
National average 46% positive.

Q FEVER MAPPED

Number of positive Q Test results per County*
Bulk tank milk PCR



Q Fever Mapping*

- Herds selected for testing with clinical signs of the disease
- Q Test result data shown - bulk milk tank sample PCR test
- Circa 8.6% of national dairy herd tested to date
- Includes 7 dairy goat herds tested

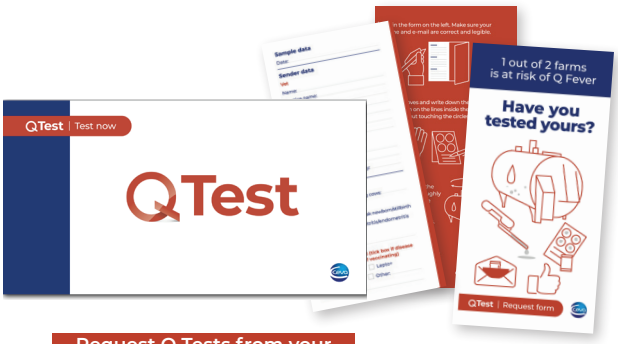
Most tested counties

1. Devon 71 tests, 21 detected
2. Antrim 67 tests, 19 detected
3. Shropshire 57 tests, 28 detected
4. Derbyshire 56 tests, 30 detected
5. Staffordshire 46 tests, 18 detected
6. North Yorkshire 43 tests, 16 detected
7. Somerset 43 tests, 26 detected
8. Tyrone 41 tests, 16 detected
9. Carmarthenshire 41 tests, 16 detected
10. Lancashire 39 tests, 19 detected

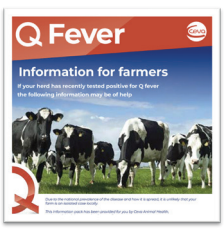
Most positive results, by county

1. Derbyshire 30 detected
2. Shropshire 28 detected
3. Somerset 26 detected
4. Lancashire 25 detected
5. Devon 21 detected
6. Cornwall 19 detected
7. Antrim 19 detected
8. Staffordshire 18 detected
9. Cumbria 18 detected
10. Carmathenshire/North Yorks/ Tyrone/Dorset 16 detected

* Data Sept 25

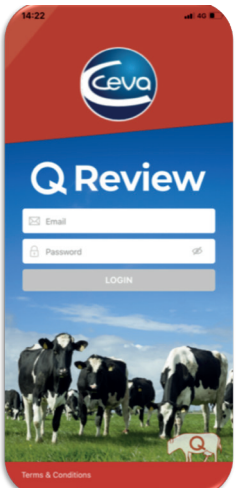


Request Q Tests from your Ceva Territory Manager



Useful farmer pack: Please request copies from your Territory Manager for all herds that test positive for the disease

Q REVIEW- NEW FREE SERVICE FOR VETS



NEW UNIQUE FREE SERVICE AVAILABLE THROUGH YOUR CEVA TERRITORY MANAGER

For a window into an individual herd's fertility in comparison to Industry Averages or Industry Targets; and a snapshot of the costs associated with fertility issues for the farm.

SUITABLE FOR

- All year round calving herds in UK
- Herds not yet tested for Q fever but experiencing clinical signs of disease
- Herds that have tested positive, not vaccinating yet or vaccinating

European Q Fever Committee Established

A European Q Fever Committee has been established which includes vets and also human medics across Europe to share knowledge and investigate Q fever as a one health challenge.

Co Chair: **George Valiakos**

Co Chair: **Raphaël Guatteo**

UK committee member: **Jonathan Statham**

https://euqfevercommittee.com/about/

Q-FACTS – European Q Fever Committee

Research Paper of Interest

Efficacy and Safety of an Inactivated Phase I *Coxiella burnetii* Vaccine to Control Q Fever in Ruminants: A Systematic Review — Gisbert, C et al 2024

References: 1 Q Test diagnostic results 2020 to Sept 2025. Ceva Animal Health Ltd, UK, 2025

Ceva Animal Health Ltd, Explorer House, Mercury Park, Wycombe Lane, Wooburn Green, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, HP10 0HH 01628 334056

COX0695sept24V1

Q FEVER
FARMER TESTIMONIALS

Mary Selby, Cheshire

Scan to view later

"We had been struggling with abortions, the interval between calving and conception, early pregnancy losses and metritis. We also weren't necessarily seeing lots of heat even though we were using heat time detection. So, it was a big area that we wanted to focus on to keep our yields going and help with our calving pattern."

- Farms 91 hectares
- Third generation tenant farmer, farming in partnership with her father, Hugh
- Milks 100 Holstein cows
- Averages 10,400 litres per cow per year from twice a day milking
- Cows turned out during the spring and summer, but in during the winter months fed on silage, wholecrop and a customised blend
- Predominately autumn calvers calving between September and December, with a few calving from January to March

Andrew Gilman, Staffordshire

Scan to view later

"As any dairy farmer knows, if your cows' fertility is poor then it affects everything, including milk production," says Andrew. "Conception rates were low, with many mid-term losses and a large number of cows were coming to drying off empty. We were not sure when they had lost their calves, but it was at some point between pregnancy diagnosis (PD) and drying off."

- Farms 194 hectares
- Fourth generation tenant farmer who farms in partnership with his parents, David and Lesley
- Milks 300 predominantly Holstein cows
- Averages 10,500 litres per cow per year from three times a day milking
- Cows housed most of the year (grazing for youngstock and during the dry period)
- All year around calving

Ceva Animal Health Ltd, Explorer House, Mercury Park, Wycombe Lane, Wooburn Green, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, HP10 0HH 01628 334056
ruminants.ceva.co.uk