

# BVA response EFRA Committee's priorities for 2026 survey

15 January 2026

## Introduction

1. The British Veterinary Association (BVA) is the national representative body for the veterinary profession in the United Kingdom. With more than 19,000 members, our primary aim is to represent, support and champion the interests of the United Kingdom's veterinary profession. We therefore take a keen interest in all issues affecting the profession, including animal health and welfare, public health, regulatory issues and employment matters.
2. We welcomed the opportunity to contribute to EFRA Committee's priorities for 2026 survey.

## Q1) What issues do you think EFRA Committee should prioritise for 2026 and why.

### The future of farming

#### Our top priority: Addressing shortcomings in UK animal disease resilience & biosecurity

The EFRA committee [biosecurity at the UK borders](#) & NAO [animal disease resilience](#) reports are very concerning. A coherent, risk-based strategy to close gaps in border biosecurity & protect the UK from diseases is needed, including an effective data-driven, risk-based system. Providing adequate resources for Official Vets & border security agencies must also be prioritised.

#### Safe application of artificial intelligence in agriculture

In the absence of regulation of AI for animal health, its potential to impact livestock health and welfare, productivity, sustainability and food safety is vast. We urgently need clear risk profiling and guidance and/or regulation on the safe use of AI on farms. See our policy on [Artificial Intelligence in the Veterinary Profession](#) for more detail.

### Animal and plant health

#### Reform veterinary legislation

The Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966 underpins everything veterinary professionals do but is no longer fit for purpose. We need a modernised regulatory framework which supports the profession, prioritises animal health and welfare, and protects public health. See [our webpage](#) for more detail.

#### Demonstration of Life Protocols for stunning cattle & poultry

The Demonstration of Life Protocol is a Halal-compliant stunning method for small ruminants. No such protocols exist for cattle or poultry. Given the sheer number of poultry that are incorrectly stunned using the water bath method, we urgently need appropriate protocols covering nuances for each species.

#### Reducing parasiticide use to maintain efficacy

There is serious concern over parasiticide resistance. Reducing use to maintain efficacy is crucial for animal health & welfare, human health, the human food chain, & the ecosystem. Better data on parasiticide sales are vitally needed, without which efforts to reduce use are unmeasurable. See our [grazing animal parasiticide policy](#) for details.

## Q2) How could the committee better gather and represent both your concerns and the views of those in your sector.

We'd welcome the opportunity to speak on relevant topics at EFRA Committee meetings.