

Welcome! So, the VESBA project is now entering Year 4, and we have had even more landowners signing up to take part. Designed to explore the success factors for a large-scale, farmer-led, badger vaccination scheme, the Defra-funded project has not only been vaccinated badgers across 250 km² of East Sussex - we have also been able to support vaccination on farms in Kent and Surrey. Spreading the word is also important, and members of the team have attended shows and given talks to farmers and vets, using our practical experience to answer questions about badger vaccination.



With the 2024 season beginning on 1st May, the team have been out pre-baiting rounds with peanuts from the middle of April onwards - and the efforts were duly rewarded - with 37 badgers vaccinated on the first morning alone! With more rounds ongoing, we have already vaccinated over 160 badgers in Year 4.

Well done to everyone involved!

Vaccination figures

Year 1	61
Year 2	559
Year 3	655
Year 4*	161

* Data up to 31 May, 2024

Save the Date!

Our annual meeting will take place at

6.30pm on Wednesday

27th November, 2024

at the

Roebuck Inn, Laughton.



A hog roast will be available from 6.30pm followed by an update from the Project Team. We also want to hear your thoughts about whether badger vaccination should continue after the project ends in March 2026.

To book your place, please email Laura—
laura.anderson@cliffevets.co.uk or call

07977 241808

Places are FREE but will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Please book early to avoid disappointment!

Training Update

In another development, Chris Tuckett has successfully completed a course to enable him to be able to train others to cage trap (Module 2) and vaccinate badgers (Module 3).



Until recently, training could only be delivered by APHA staff, who had to travel a fair distance to East Sussex. For anyone that has had to organise a training event, you can understand that it can be difficult to co-ordinate the venue, the trainer and the attendees - but for vaccination training, you also need to factor in the weather (as traps cannot be set if the forecast is poor). The final element is making sure that there will be enough badgers trapped to enable the trainees to vaccinate at least four animals each—which is why the course is limited to two people. Prior to the 'field' element, there is also a classroom session that covers the legalities around badger vaccination, as well as how the vaccine needs to be stored and reconstituted. If you, or someone you know, might be interested in completing this training, please contact Laura Anderson.

Congratulations, Chris!

Out and About!

Members of the VESBA management team have been out and about—attending both the UK Dairy Day in Telford last September and DairyTech at Stoneleigh Park in February 2024. Nick Pile and Lindsay Heasman also travelled as far north as Cumbria to talk to vets and farmers about the role badger vaccination can play in TB control.



Please get in touch!

If you have any questions about the VESBA project, please visit:

www.vesba.org.uk

Alternatively, please give Laura Anderson a call on

07977 241808