



Sheep Veterinary Society
Division of the British Veterinary Association

June 2020

Dear SVS Member

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) has impacted on us all in varying degrees but I hope you have been able to stay safe during the long weeks of lockdown. Mercifully the weather has been kind during lambing time and the first lambs are getting away to market, however the recent lack of rain is now bringing challenges.

The BVA have worked tirelessly creating information guides on the BVA website for veterinary professionals and practices to help navigate the challenges of the pandemic's impact on businesses and animal health and welfare, advice for pet owners on vaccinations and routine appointments, and information for farmers on veterinary support to maintain the food chain. The Sunday BVA webinars were well attended and kept everyone in touch.

The SVS committee has continued to work hard behind the scenes and have met regularly by teleconference and Zoom. The committee have provided input to the Sheep Antibiotic Guardian Group on the prophylactic use of antibiotics in sheep; the development of the proposed Sheep Health and Welfare Pathway and met weekly with the BVA during the Lockdown.

SVS have contributed to letters in the Veterinary Record most recently Encouraging best practice during lambing, Responsible use of moxidectin in sheep, Rafoxanide is not an appropriate alternative to Closantel and signed a joint letter along with BCVA, GVS to the House of Lords expressing our disappointment at the recent rejection of the Agriculture Bill amendments during the final Commons debate.

SVS have also supported the lasted publication of the Moredun Institute newsletter and a copy will be made available to SVS members, please contact Hazel.

SVS have contributed to BVA policy position on sheep castration, tail docking, and pain management and we continue to work with BVA on other areas of sheep health & welfare.

This year the SVS research grant received 7 innovative applications and following serious consideration the grant was split between two proposals:

- Nicola Fletcher University College Dublin: Continuing work on the development of ante-mortem blood tests for Jaagsiekte Sheep Retrovirus (JSRV) using liquid biopsy and PCR.
- Emma Borkowski University of Surrey: Assessing molecular techniques in parasitology.

Ordinary General Meeting (OGM)

The constitution requires both an OGM and an AGM to be held each year, normally at the conferences. To comply with our constitution we propose holding an OGM via Zoom

Sheep Vet Society, OGM

Monday 22 June at 7.30 pm

by Zoom meeting

<https://nmbu.zoom.us/j/62431429089?pwd=ODgzK2ZOcU12dFg2VGdkRWM5bnAwdz09>

Meeting ID: 624 3142 9089

Password: 707412

Conferences

It was disappointing to have to cancel the SVS Spring meeting in Belfast especially after all the hard work put in by our conference organisers Moyna and Phillipa but we have been able to retain the venue and hope to hold the conference in Belfast in 2022.

The autumn meeting and AGM was to have been held in Cheltenham in September 2020 but given that the venue is currently closed and all the uncertainty surrounding Covid 19, it was decided to postpone this meeting to spring May 2021.

An alternative suggestion has been to hold a smaller meeting in conjunction at the NSA Sheep 2020 on **19th October 2020** at the Three Counties Showground Malvern. Please refer to the survey monkey.

The autumn 2021 conference is also being planned and potentially to be held in Penrith, Cumbria.

10th International Sheep Veterinary Congress (ISVC)

Update regarding the 10th International Sheep Veterinary Congress (ISVC), was scheduled to be held in Seville from 20th – 24th September 2021 together with the 5th triennial Congress of the ECSRHM is now postponed until **19th – 23rd September 2022**.

This decision was reached because the World Buiatrics Conference and the International Conference on Goats both moved their conferences to September 2021

We plan to send out another newsletter in the autumn to keep you informed and about the AGM

Survey Monkey

As we are unable to hold meetings we would like to seek your views on a number of issues and encourage you to take part in a survey monkey.

The survey covers your thoughts on how SVS communicate with members, a proposed new website and your preferences for an autumn gathering.

There are 8 questions and should take you two minutes to complete

Please help us by taking part <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/3VKLVQ3>

The survey will close on Sunday 21st June 2020

SVS and Flock health club webinars

SVS have partnered with Flock Health Ltd and industry partners have produced the following FREE webinars. To register please go to the SVS website and find links to recorded webinars so if you missed them you can still view the webinars.

12th May -

UK Sheep Industry – Where are we & where are we going?

26th May -

How can vets best engage with sheep farmers?

9th June -

How can vets best ensure successful lamb growth?

23rd June -

Sheep Flock Economics – bottom line & showing cost benefit

7th July -

Flock Data Handling – focus on key performance indicators

Thank you to our industry supporters



Many thanks again for your support.

SVS Executive Committee.