



Sheep Veterinary Society
Division of the British Veterinary Association

April 2021

Update from the President

Since we held our virtual AGM in September, we have all continued to experience the limitations that Covid-19 restrictions have placed on us. Nevertheless, the committee have met virtually on a number of occasions. Updates on our activities are below.

New Website

SVS have been developing a new website which will go live in May 2021 and we will show you this during the OGM section of the May virtual conference.

This new website will feature a forum for members to replace the former popular yahoo group. In addition there is a facility for members to edit their member details, pay membership fees and include member benefits for example access to webinars and proceedings content.

Please can all members go to this new website at the end of May once it goes live and update their member details. <https://www.sheepvetsoc.org.uk/>

BVA consultations

Welfare in transport

The committee brought together a group to formulate the response to the Defra and Scottish Governments consultations on Welfare in transport which included: Willie Stewart, Nick Hart, Rebecca Mearns, Clare Phythian, John Royle, Peter Baber, Julian Earl, Bill McKinney, Rudolf Reichel, Amanda Carson & Kate Hovers.

These consultations originally focussed on the Governments manifesto commitment to ban live animal exports but then brought in other considerations on welfare standards for livestock during transport including a suggestion to prevent animals being transported when temperatures are below 5 degrees!

This group felt that there had been a missed opportunity especially in paying due regard to scientific evidence regarding the relationship between journey times and welfare outcomes and that animals slaughtered for food should be slaughtered as close to the point of production as possible.

Red Tractor review

Nick Hart was a member of the Red Tractor review group and was able to feed in very practical considerations. He is currently assisting with the review of the consultation responses.

Animal Sentience

SVS were a signatory to a letter from BVA to the Telegraph calling on Govt to take swift action to embed the principle of animal sentience in law (its 40 months since they made this commitment!).

<https://www.bva.co.uk/news-and-blog/news-article/leading-vets-vet-nurses-and-students-call-for-urgent-action-on-animal-sentience>

The BVA have had numerous meetings to also consider Covid-19, the RCVS Consultation on the Legislation Working Party recommendations and other issues.

Ruminant Health and Welfare Group

Ruminant Health and Welfare Group (RHAWG) in 2020 replaced SHAWG. SVS are represented on the stakeholder group as this new group develop their strategy.

<https://ruminanthw.org.uk/>

FUTURE FARMING

Within Defra, the Future Farming and Countryside Programme has been developing a number of animal health and welfare reforms. These reforms are centred on a new Animal Health and Welfare Pathway that will strike a new deal with government and farmers, be industry led and will allow us to work together to continually improve farm animal health and welfare. The Pathway will promote the production of healthier, higher welfare animals at a level beyond compliance with regulations and will underpin our high international reputation for animal health and welfare.

Animal Health Pathway – work continues to develop ways to provide support in England to control endemic disease. BVA divisions have recently been included in sub groups which are exploring these proposals – especially with regard to vet visits to farms.

<https://www.bva.co.uk/news-and-blog/blog-article/the-agricultural-transition-what-does-it-mean-for-vets-and-your-clients/>

Welfare

Payment-by-results centres on making ongoing payments to farmers that deliver demonstrable welfare enhancements that are above the regulatory baseline, valued by the public and not sufficiently provided by the market.

Defra have commissioned the University of Bristol, ADAS and the Royal Agricultural University to undertake research on **The Economics of Providing Livestock with Health and Welfare Enhancements via a Payment by Results Scheme**. This research started on 1st September 2020 and will run for 18 months. Six sectors will be covered: Laying hens, meat chickens, dairy cattle, beef cattle, sheep and pigs.

Animal Welfare Payment-by-Results Workshop 11th December 2020

Attended by Rudolf Reichel, Amanda Carson and Rebecca Mearns and some interesting discussion followed some of indicators suggested:

Freedom from discomfort:

When housed deep bedding and portioned areas are provided; Low levels of dirtiness; Choice of temperature/ shelter from extreme weather

Freedom to Express Normal Behaviour: Promoting positive experiences:

Choice of food enrichment is provided e.g. two or more forms of roughage, whole crop, diverse swards; **Choice** of environmental enrichment is provided, e.g. novel piles of logs, climbing hills; Ewe and lambs remain together for at least 16 weeks

Freedom from Pain, Injury or Disease:

Use of genetic strains that promote longevity and physical robustness; Low levels of lameness; Keeping lambs with intact tails; Providing prolonged analgesia for tail docking; Keeping lambs uncastrated; Providing prolonged analgesia for castration; Low levels of lamb mortality;

Freedom from Hunger and Thirst

Low levels of ewe mortality; providing a 100% pasture-based diet and good body condition;

Freedom from Fear and Distress

Sheepdogs are limited to use on open land, not around housing or handling pens; Sheepdogs not used. Sheep moved by following or calling or other form of positive reinforcement used; Stable social groups are promoted through retaining young-stock on farm and limiting mixing of groups; Gradual weaning/ natural weaning practiced

Other surveys

Survey from NOAH seeking views on their Compendium of Data Sheets and its various formats.

<https://mogannonassociates.researchfeedback.net/8op7cu> - now closed

Research project by Queen's University Belfast in association with Moredun Research Institute and the WORMSS project (University of Glasgow and Flock Health Ltd). It's about parasite control on sheep farms in Scotland. We would like to know what you are doing to control worms, and what you think of wormer resistance and how to deal with it.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/WormScot>

Farm Vet Champions

RCVS Knowledge has developed training for UK farm animal veterinary practitioners as they establish good antimicrobial stewardship in practices and on farms. Fiona Lovatt has played a key role in the development of this concept and we are fortunate that she developed the sheep module, which Rachel Forster reviewed. Fiona will present on this at the May virtual conference. However to register your interest please go to RCVS Knowledge.

<https://knowledge.rcvs.org.uk/forms/register-your-interest-to-become-a-farm-vet-champion/>

Register of Sheep Advisers (RoSA)

Liz Genever has been working with NSA and BASIC to create The Register of Sheep Advisers (RoSA) which aims to be a network of well-rounded professional advisers driving the UK sheep industry

towards a sustainable future by providing comprehensive advice on all aspects of sheep production. It launches on the 1st June.

Becoming a member of RoSA will allow you to demonstrate the skills and knowledge you have developed which can help farmers to create a sustainable farming system, which meets the highest standards of animal welfare and environmental protection. During the application process, being a member of the Sheep Veterinary Society will be counted favourable.

RoSA membership allows all advisers working within the UK sheep sector to demonstrate that they have a comprehensive knowledge of all aspects of sheep production, and signifies a commitment to continue to develop this knowledge through structured CPD. Members can join RoSA either as a full member for more experienced advisers or as an associate for individuals who are at the start of their career or for those looking to develop a career as a sheep adviser in the future.

See www.sheepadvisers.co.uk for more information.

Conferences

We have formed a sub-committee including Amanda Carson, Nick Hart, Rebecca Mearns, Tricia Sutton, Rudolf Reichel, Hazel Rice, Phillipa Page, Moyna Richey, Bev Hopkins and Judith Charnley. This group has been reviewing the format of future conferences, with particular regard to the content with a focus on delivering CPD to new and recent graduates, non-specialist sheep vets (caring for smallholdings), students and the financial aspects of conferences.

We are working towards holding an **autumn conference in 2021** which is planned to take place in Cheltenham 20th – 22nd September 2021

We would like to invite members to come forward to present at the autumn conference for example the findings of recent research, new projects initiated or short presentations on interesting cases. In addition if you would like to propose topics of interest – we can explore potential speakers.

Please send you proposals or suggestions to secretariat@sheepvetsoc.org.uk

More details on the autumn conference will be made available in due course.

10th International Sheep Veterinary Congress (ISVC)



#ISVA2021
www.isva-virtual2021.com



ISVA have organised a virtual meeting from 23rd to 25th November 2021

<https://www.isva-virtual2021.com/index.php>

The 10th International Sheep Veterinary Congress (ISVC), that was scheduled to be held in Seville from September 20 to 24 2021 together with the 5th triennial Congress of the ECSRHM will be postponed to **March 6 to 10, 2023**

SVS Spring Virtual Conference
Saturday 15th May 2021

2 pm	Amanda Carson SVS President - opening address
2.05 pm	Fiona Lovatt RCVS – Flock Health Ltd Farm Vet Champions
2.40 pm	Mandy Neville - AHDB E medicine hub
3.10 pm	Kythe Mackenzie - Ceva Animal Health Ltd EAE - Test, Trace and Vaccinate
3.30 pm	Short Break
3.45 pm	Stew Burgess – Moredun Research Institute RDPE Countryside Productivity Scheme Project to tackle Sheep Scab
4 .10 pm	Rebecca Mearns – Biobest Laboratories Ltd Applications of the sheep scab ELISA blood test
4.35 pm	Sharon Cooksey – Bimeda UK The do’s and don’ts for effective use of OP dip
5.00 pm	SVS OGM including website launch and tour

To Register for this Webinar, please contact Hazel at the office on 0131 445 6045 with your card details or e-mail secretariat@sheepvetsoc.org.uk

Members	£ 25.00
Non- members	£ 30.00

For members wishing to join the OGM only please inform secretariat@sheepvetsoc.org.uk and we will provide a link to the OGM so you can join without payment.



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