



Sheep Veterinary Society
Division of the British Veterinary Association

August 2021

Update from the President

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) continues to challenge society. As I write most restrictions were lifted in England on July 19th and Scotland Wales and Northern Ireland also taking steps to ease restrictions. While infection rates currently continue to rise, the number of people vaccinated is increasing. It's clear that this situation continues to evolve, nevertheless we are optimistic that we can hold an SVS Autumn conference in September and details are attached.

After so long in isolation it would be great to meet up and we are working with the guidance issued and the venue to make sure that everyone attending can feel safe.

Virtual meetings of the executive committee have continued and I am so grateful for the support I have received during my Presidential year. SVS is truly a friendly society!

It has been hectic with all the changes that Brexit has brought, especially in relation to the future of British farming and the priorities we face for AMR and AHR. There are many members, too many to mention, who are passionate about sheep and who are unsung heroes, working hard behind the scenes to further sheep health and welfare not only through SVS activities but more widely working with RUMA, SCOPS, RHWG and Assurance schemes to name a few.

SVS Spring Virtual Conference was held on Saturday 15th May 2021.

Presentations were given on Farm Vet Champions, E medicine hub, EAE - Test, Trace and Vaccinate, RDPE Countryside Productivity Scheme Project to tackle Sheep Scab, Applications of the sheep scab ELISA blood test and The do's and don'ts for effective use of OP dip.

These sessions were recorded and are available to view via the SVS webpage under the members section.

SVS website

The new website went live in June.

SVS member have additional access rights

- members are encouraged to update their personal details and include their practice details in the Find a vet tool
- Access the full proceedings – which include a search function
- Participate in a forum of different topics, featuring alerts for example discussions on interesting cases
- A resource of previously recorded webinars

The new website offers some new features including

- “Find a Sheep Vet” map tool
- news updates
- forthcoming events
- A knowledge hub of guidance and information notes and the indexes to all our proceedings
- Easy to join process

The new Forum has been set up with several categories where members can post questions or answer them. It is important to look at the forum topics and click on the subscribe button in order to receive email alerts when new posts have been made.



Committee members

Nominations are invited for positions on the committee. If you are interested in standing for the committee, please send a short resume, along with the names of two members of the SVS as you nominees, to the secretary so your name can be put forward at the AGM where two new committee members will be voted for.

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. 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.

The Agricultural Transition Plan: June 2021 progress update has been published

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/agricultural-transition-plan-june-2021-progress-update/agricultural-transition-plan-june-2021-progress-update#details-of-the-sustainable-farming-incentive-offer-in-2022>

As a first step on the Animal Health and Welfare Pathway, there will be an Annual Health and Welfare Review where Defra will fund a yearly visit from a vet or vet-led team. SVS are represented via a BVA group who are feeding into this process.



This Annual Health and Welfare Review will help reduce endemic diseases and conditions within livestock, promote responsible use of veterinary medicines, improve welfare and increase farm productivity, and build on the strong relationships that exist between farmers and vets. Action taken as a result of the Annual Health and Welfare Review will contribute to government commitments on the responsible use of antimicrobials, as set out in the UK Anti-Microbial Resistance 5-year National Action Plan.

The Annual Health and Welfare Review will include diagnostic testing for priority diseases or conditions, and bespoke advice on health, welfare, biosecurity and the responsible use of medicines. As part of the review, farmers and vets will share data which will be used to better understand the health and welfare of the national herd and flock, and not for inspections.

For sheep, testing will start with parasitic resistance to anthelmintic treatments (drench testing), because this affects productivity and increases greenhouse gas emissions.

Ruminant Health and Welfare Group (RHWG)

Ruminant Health & Welfare is an independent, industry-based body tasked with helping farmers and stock managers tackle sheep and cattle disease, and build the health and welfare status, resilience and production efficiency of our national flock and herd.

It has replaced SHAWG and CHAWG and SVS are represented on the steering group.

RHWG has a responsibility to producers to identify priorities and build the collaborative energy to generate change. The right results will underpin industry efforts to meet Net Zero and responsible antibiotic use ambitions.

In November and December 2020, the Ruminant Health & Welfare steering group disseminated a 'grassroots' survey through a wide number of organisations in its membership. The survey was aimed at establishing the disease, health and welfare priorities.

The results of this survey have been published and identified the sheep disease priorities and the common conditions that pose a threat to flock health and welfare, in particular the pressures of parasitic disease and lameness.

More information including access to webinars can be found at <https://ruminanthw.org.uk/>

BVA

The last council meeting held on 14th July, attended by Amanda & Rebecca. Items discussed included:

- Brexit - Trade and certification Alignment/Equivalence or outcome focussed controls were discussed
- FSA Transformation Programme. FSA role moving from principally inspection to a mix of inspection and FBO control audits on a risk-based assessment.
- Small animal parasiticides - using these products in a prophylactic way and frequent administration and evidence base is required
- Animal Welfare Policy Document - BVA reported that the Animal Welfare (Kept Animals) Bill proposed covering many of the asks BVA have made to government recently



On 20th July, BVA held a joint meeting with SVS and GVS to discuss issues of interest for sheep and goats specifically in relation to

- Brexit: Trade and certification capacity, Surveillance and biosecurity, AHW Pathway and devolved equivalents
- National Food Strategy
- Kept Animals Bill - Ban on live exports, Non-stun slaughter
- Scrapie Monitored Scheme – new rules for the scheme have been launched
- Medicines - emedicines Hub, Parasiticides, Access to licensed products
- Animal welfare strategy – priority animal welfare problems

Some of the issues discussed feature in the autumn conference program

Consultations

- New consultations are currently in progress to which SVS are contributing relating to welfare
- Animal Welfare Committee – Castration and Tail Docking of Lambs
- Association of Show and Agricultural Organisations SHOWS Animal Welfare Plan

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.

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)

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.

SCOPS

An open letter to industry was recently published, as the grazing season progresses, prescribers are reminded of the need to encourage all sheep farms to integrate the two newer wormer groups (4-AD orange (Zolvix) and 5-SI purple (Startect)) into their worm control plans, as advised by the Sustainable Control of Parasites in Sheep (SCOPS) group.

The aim is for one of the two newer groups to be used on all sheep farms at two points in their worm control plan. Firstly, as part of their quarantine treatments for all incoming sheep, and secondly as a one-off treatment for lambs, in the latter part of the grazing season

The full letter can be found here;

https://sheepvetsoc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Sheep-Industry-Open-Letter_July-2021.pdf

Red Tractor

Following a lengthy consultation during which Nick Hart represented SVS the new revised standards have been agreed and will apply from November 2021. These new standards will be rolled out during August 2021

International Conferences

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 **September 19 to 23, 2022.**

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

The Responsible use of Medicines in Agriculture Alliance (RUMA), will be hosting its annual conference online on Thursday 18th November 2021

Tickets available <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ruma-2021-conference-responsible-use-of-veterinary-medicines-uk-and-int-tickets-154414769733>

AWF Discussion Forum 2021 – Wednesday 15th September 2021

Features a programme of debates about key cross-species welfare topics led by expert speakers, including a session on upholding animal welfare in the face of a pandemic

Tickets available:

<https://hopin.com/events/awf-discussion-forum-2021?code=0FkmzGJnwFdkpWCaCgG02xnUY>

Nominations for Membership

Full/Associate/Student Member

Paula Romeo Garcia	Amanda Carson	Nick Hart
Alberto Luque-Castro	Amanda Carson	Nick Hart
Johanna Hilke	Amanda Carson	Nick Hart
Bruce Goodwin	Amanda Carson	Nick Hart
Hannah Jarman	Amanda Carson	Nick Hart
Andrew Henderson	Amanda Carson	Nick Hart
Eilidh Corr	Amanda Carson	Nick Hart
Tomas Lileikis	Amanda Carson	Nick Hart
Lissie Gercke	Amanda Carson	Nick Hart
David Rendle	Amanda Carson	Nick Hart
Elizabeth Thornley	Amanda Carson	Nick Hart
Seamus Fagan	Amanda Carson	Nick Hart

**SVS autumn conference 2021
20th - 22nd Sep 2021
DoubleTree by Hilton Cheltenham**

Attendee code of behaviour

Attendees are asked to agree to the following:

- **Please undertake your own health risk assessment**, consider if you wish to travel to and attend the SVS autumn 2021 conference (taking into account your age and any health conditions or vulnerabilities).
- **Follow any relevant guidance on travel.** Please observe any current travel regulations for example relevant regulations on international travel, such as testing and quarantine measures or wearing of masks on public transport. We recommend coming by car.
- **Please check for symptoms of COVID-19** (a high temperature, new and persistent cough, or a loss of/change in sense of taste or smell) before you travel to the event. If you, or anyone you live with, have one or more of these symptoms (even if they are mild) you should not attend, and should follow the [guidance on testing and self-isolation](#).
- **Please do not attend if you need to self-isolate**, for example because you have been asked to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace, are required to isolate after travel, or because you are displaying any COVID-19 symptoms.
- **We strongly recommend that you are vaccinated and do a lateral flow test at some point during the 24hrs prior to traveling to the conference**
- **Please adhere to any relevant COVID-19 safety measures in place at the venue**, including observing directions given by venue staff. We are working with the venue to ensure adequate ventilation, adequate spacing and cleaning of the venue to reduce the risk of transmission of covid.
- **Please adhere to any other relevant behaviours** such as responsible use of alcohol. **Please - no handshakes, hugs and kisses**
- **Please arrive at the venue early as registration may be slow**
- **We would encourage you to wear face coverings in crowded areas. Multiple hand sanitiser units will be placed around the conference**
- **At the venue please follow the one-way system around exhibitor stands**
- **Please observe social distancing around the poster exhibitions and exhibitor stands**
- **No payments will be taken on site for SVS membership or registration. We will send by email all documentation required including handouts for the CPD session.**
- **We recommend people undertake a lateral flow test after the conference and before returning to work**
- **Presenters to provide a USB stick with their presentation which will be wiped with a disinfectant wipe**