



Welcome to Ruminant Health & Welfare

Welcome to the latest issue of the RH&W newsletter.

The warm days of autumn have been ripped away by storm Arwen, scarring the landscape with broken trees and soaking away the last colour from leaves and grasses. The first snows of winter have suddenly brought Christmas and the New Year closer although warm air now hangs calm in the grey air.

Those conflicting waves of weather which have dragged us into winter perhaps sum up a year which has seen highs and lows for the farming community and the fluctuating grip of Covid across communities struggling to break away from sadness to gain hold of normality, communities that now face the menace of a new variant.

In a world of uncertainty RH&W has focused on building consensus around a future ruminant health framework. A framework which reflects the priorities at farm level; aiming to reset the health and welfare status of our flocks and herds and mapping out transformational health targets for 2031.

In response to today's challenges RH&W has been active in exploring new pain relief approaches, inputting to consultations and flagging up the immediate challenges of climate change emission reductions. In addition we have been working with partners, supporting the development of dairy beef systems and the genetics that can underpin them.

Wishing you all the best for the festive season and the New Year.

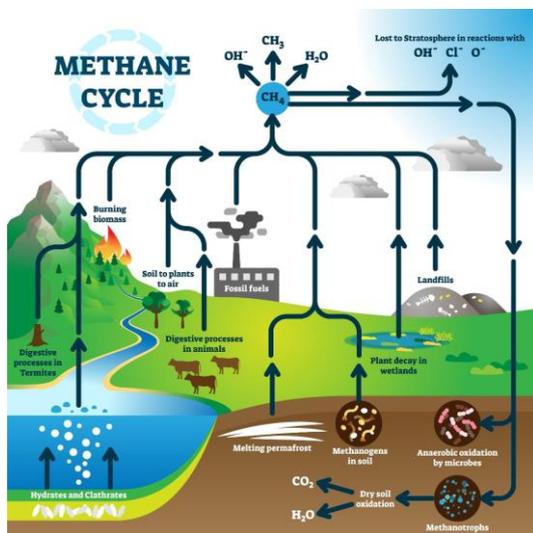
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nigel Miller', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Nigel Miller
Chair
RH&W

Time to tackle tick-borne diseases

With risk of tick-borne diseases changing as new seasonal and geographical patterns emerge, RH&W has brought together a new online resource to help farmers and vets tackle these diseases.

Visit the information page on the website [here](#).



Government has urgent role in standardising carbon calculators

Following our [call for the sheep and cattle sectors to engage](#) with the COP26 methane reduction targets to avoid being given 'soundbite solutions', we wrote to the farming ministers of all four UK governments. Our request to them was for urgent action in standardising carbon calculators to ensure farmers have consistent baseline data.

Read the full letter [here](#).

Medicine Hub

Cattle and sheep farmers can help [industry efforts](#) to prove responsible use of antibiotics by simply registering on the new Medicine Hub. Developed by AHDB, the Medicine Hub is a safe, secure and independent database to collate, report and compare antibiotic data for UK dairy, beef and sheep farms.



Register [here](#).

Other news from the industry

General

- The [TB advisory service](#) has now been extended to include goat holdings.
- Keep your guard up against liver fluke this winter, [warn industry experts](#).
- Shape the future of farming - [vote on the work AHDB delivers for you](#).
- The BVA is looking for the [next Junior Vice President](#).

Sheep

- CEVA animal health has reported a shortage of Spectam Scourhalt, so the Sheep Veterinary Society has [prepared guidance](#) on the management of watery mouth.
- There could be [new opportunities to export lamb to the US](#), now that US authorities have removed the small ruminant rule. The [NSA welcomes this news](#).
- [Watch back](#) the Sheep Breeders Round Table.

Cattle

- BCVA launches a [new sustainability policy statement](#).
 - The Welsh Government has refreshed its [TB Eradication Programme](#).
 - A new report from the [VMD/RUMA](#) examines antibiotic prescriptions across a sample of beef and dairy farms, indicating annual trends and differences between beef enterprise types.
 - Another new report, this time from [NML FarmAssist](#), looks at trends in antibiotic use in up to 1,100 GB dairy herds.
 - Date for the diary: 2 February 2022 - Great British Calf Week. [More details](#) to follow in January.
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Ruminant Health & Welfare

Cattle and sheep health and welfare priorities – a
'grassroots' survey across the four nations of the UK

MAY 2021



Survey carried out by RH&W
Analysis and report generated by AHDB, with additional commentary from RH&W

www.ruminanthw.org.uk

[Read the full RH&W report](#)

These results are some of the first which truly take into account those at the coalface of farming, who deal with these diseases and conditions on a daily basis.

This report will play an important role in setting strategic goals and activities for RH&W and the wider industry across the four nations over coming years. [Read the full report here.](#)

We are 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. See more about our aims [here](#).



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