# Sustainability - BCVA sustainability policy led by Rachel Hayton

Sustainability = meeting the needs of the present without compromise to future generations to meet their needs.

BCVA developed this policy in response the COP26

The aim is to reach NETZERO by 2050

Collective actions:

* Promote role of vets
* Lobby govt
* Education

Individual actions:

* Vet footprint
* Greener vet practices
* Education and upskilling

Some estimates – dairy vet 24,000 tons/yr. Carbon, beef vet 30,000 tons/yr., individual person 34 tons/yr.

Farmers:

NFU commitment to NETZERO by 2040

Reverse decline in biodiversity

Improve soil health

Protect water

Clean air

Provide carbon offsetting

However, everyone must follow the rules, keep staff employed and make a living…

How can this be achieved?

Increase efficiency

Agro-ecology

Nutrient recycling

Regenerative agriculture

Review of land use

Renewable energy

Learn about new incentive schemes

BCVA policy aims to provide a reference

Role of the cattle vet

Sustainability and effects of disease

Educational resources

Evidence based decisions

Collaboration, lobbying

Metris (data capture)

Sustainable practices

# Policy sections

# Role and influence of vets

Farm to fork

One Health

Preventive healthcare and treatments

Upholding legislation and standards

Animal Welfare, Food safety

Can be achieved through improved efficiency but needs to have animal health and welfare at the heart of this – can’t have improved efficiency at the cost of reduced welfare.

IS there a role for sustainability advisors?

# Full cost of disease

What is the GHG cost of diseases – knowing this might help prioritise diseases that have the biggest GHG impact and drive legislation to help address them.

# Engagement Training and development

Includes evidence-based decision making

Fill in gaps of CPD

Collaboration - lots of people working in this area so no need for duplication

# NETZERO targets

Need a bespoke approach

Farmers are good at finding solutions and we need to get the right metrics to be able to help farmers who will have different issues to address.

Needs to be a fair methodology for assessing individual farms, currently lots of different systems, and need to consider if assessing per unit production or per unit land

Monitoring progress – how

Food production is the goal – but any changes must not be at the expense of H&W, Biodiversity, Soil health, water, air, and social and economic factors. We must not be exporting our carbon issues elsewhere

# Developing robust metrics

* Carbon auditing tools
* Biodiversity tools – could be better
* Soil health

# Responsible use of vet meds

Antibiotics - RUMA targets, Farm Vet Champions, Medicine hub, Arwain vet Cymru

Anthelmintics – BCVA policy (in development Sally Wilson), combatting resistance

# Sustainability in Practice

BVA Vet Sustain checklist

<https://vetsustain.org/resources/vet-practice-checklist>

Examples given for some vet practices who have adopted this guidance e.g., Synergy discovered that 80% of their carbon footprint was due to transport.

BCVA Vet Sustain working group

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