

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting of the Sheep Veterinary Society

Zoom Meeting

Wednesday 23 February 2022

The meeting convened at 12h00.

Minutes kept by R Reichel, Secretary

Present: Rebecca Mearns, Amanda Carson, Rudolf Reichel, Ed Hill, Hazel Rice, David Wilson, Miranda Timmerman, Phillipa Page, Rachel Forster, Kevin Harrison, Shona Mouncey, Tricia Sutton, Amy Jennings,

Apologies: Jonathan Hobbs, Clare Phythian

1. **Minutes and action points** from last meeting. Previous minutes accepted, proposed by Amanda and seconded by Rebecca.

Previous action points and progress:

No	Description	Responsible	Completed?
1	To arrange a meeting of the AHW Pathway subgroup in January	RM	done
2	Talk to Kate Hovers about the meeting at Malvern. Re castration / tail docking.	AC	Not done yet
3	Follow up with BVA regarding current lamb castration policy.	RM	Not yet done
4	Get feedback from members re problems and concerns regarding the latest Red Tractor health Plans. This should then be fed back to Red Tractor.	JH	SM and JH SVS reps and will raise at the next meeting
5	Circulate notes on blunt force trauma euthanasia of neonates and to form a subgroup to look into this in January	AC	Now in legislation. The HSA will update their guidance for farmers.
6	Collate the evidence for importance of hygiene and sterilisation systems during injection and the consequences if it is not followed. Re Sterimatic/SteriCap.	RM	Got it but yet to collate and share. No further SVS action required at this stage
7	Requested that emails that require urgent feedback should have this indicated in the heading.	All	ongoing

2. Update on Belfast Conference

SVS conference update from Phillipa and Moyna – when to slot in the OGM (availability of Fiona McFarland, BVA NI as want to get expressions of interest from SVS members in NI to be rep on BVA NI). A further separate planning meeting will take place next week with key organisers.

Agreed to limit expenses for speakers to £75 with submission of receipts and a full day registration, i.e. travel mileage @ 45p per mile and standard class rail / airfares supported by receipts. For short presentations, it is ½ day registration only. Need a standard email to send to all speakers to thank for agreeing to speak, confirm timeslot and duration, ask for presentation in advance and lay out SVS expenses policy. And add that if people can cover expense from their own KE budget then SVS would appreciate that.

PP – Confirmation of speakers progressing very well.

3. NSA Events – Malvern and Scotsheep

Agreed that it would be good to have a presence at both. Perhaps sharing with Moredun using the SVS Pull Up. Can provide information regarding the AH&W Pathway and Find-a-Vet. Cost for a stand at Scotsheep is £300 and deadline is this Friday. Deadline for Malvern end of March.

KH to speak to NSA to see if there is a way for SVS to have a presence without having a stand.

EH and PP are attending Scotsheep.

4. CEVA supported meetings – Sheep Meet

RM will agree the sponsorship this week - £3,750 for up to 15 meetings. Members are encouraged to arrange meetings. Need to be done on an expression of interest basis to ensure proper geographic cover and covering the calendar year. Meetings aimed at veterinarians and to provide platform for younger/newer veterinarians to present for the first time. Farmers can be allowed but will require approval from CEVA. Information to be included in the next members mailing.

5. AH&W Pathway update

Many meetings have taken place and committee members have provided input. Defra has given a policy update. There is a planned Pathway Disease Investigation Workshop next week with attendance from JH, PP, AC and RR.

RM had some concerns as to what this will achieve without a steer on how much funding is envisaged. She has raised these with Megan and Chris. The below response from Megan T (defra): *“The group has agreed that funding should be prioritised for the investigative processes. In the workshop, it would be useful get a general idea of the three aspects Rebecca suggested - 1.) vet time on farm, 2.) Appropriate diagnostic tests, and 3.) Advice following investigations - for each package. Then we can explore whether a package is asking too much of current vet capacity and capability. Perhaps this is where we could bring in RoSA and SQPs?”*

For each investigative process, we hope to determine what information would be generated and whether we could use this to understand if the programme is successful. This may be as basic as establishing a baseline idea of the prevalence of diseases we currently have little to no information

for, so that we can then monitor them. We would hope to also get some estimated costings for each disease investigation package. Further costs for prevention, treatment and management (e.g. test and cull) are out of scope. We know that it is difficult and frustrating to try cost things without a limit in mind, but until we have an idea of the costs of each package we cannot amend our funding model. Our economists will be invited to the meeting so that they can provide their input on this.”

6. BADAFS Working Group

Cross industry working group in partnership with Soil Association and Alliance to Save Our Antibiotics. First meeting 21st March TBC 10-12. Some misgivings from others re this group that it may try to reinvent what RUMA is already doing. Better. Ed volunteered to attend and RM has shared the ToR.

7. SCOPS Liver Fluke diagnostics Infographic.

A draft was shared for feedback back to SCOPS. One concern was the interpretation of a single positive serology result after a sentinel bleed. AC suggested a traffic light system and guidance to rebleed.

8. SAGG meeting

Update was sent round from Rachel

9. Spectam

Discussion on what practices are doing. Guidance and information have gone out via the VR, Veterinary times and press releases. Some concern that alternative antibiotics are being used instead of relying on management such as ewe nutrition, colostrum improvement and hygiene. Feedback is that most farmers are on board with this, but a small minority will still rely on antibiotics. The Colostrum is Gold campaign is making a difference.

The use of pre and pro biotics were discussed and if they work, if there is evidence? PP mentioned that she is involved in a large scale randomised double blind study of one such product.

AC suggested there should be a session on this at the September meeting.

10. APPG first meeting on agri extension

Brief notes have been circulated by RM

11. SVS bursaries

Discussion and agreement that further bursaries have been suspended indefinitely. SVS can no longer afford them and it will be reviewed in 2025.

12. NSA - Sheep worrying leaflet

RM requested to please share and retweet, the leaflet sent around by HR yesterday

13. Farm vet champions stakeholder meeting 07Feb22

What can SVS do to increase sign up and active use of this resource? A stand / materials at Belfast / Penrith (postcards are available from lucy@rcvsknowledge.org) Include in all local Sheep Meets. Phase 2 is development of SMART goals which can be individual or teams. SVS could form a team

and pledge to do stuff... RUMA Target to have half of the 5500 farm vets registered on RCVS by end 2024 I think. So far 600 signed up though not all active.

AC suggested making it a mandatory topic at all meetings.

14. Red Tractor and sterimatic / stericide feedback

No one seemed as alarmed but RM got some thoughts and will collate and send to Shona and Jonathan in case they are relevant for future discussions

15. AHDB webinar

RM: A success and supports future direction of having one virtual conference and one face-to-face conference a year starting 2023. Good feedback from those who would normally find it difficult to attend e.g. vets in Highlands and Islands.

16. AOB

- BVA governance feedback required by 28 March. Regarding non vets / non BVA members holding office in divisions etc. AC volunteered to get info from SVS constitution what we do and canvass opinions of committee and wider membership via website forum/direct emailing and to provide the feedback.
- RM: Also SQPs role and regulations VMD review comments by 4th March –can everyone read the letter to stakeholders sent by HR and respond to RM by Tuesday at the latest and she will collate.

Current Action Points

No	Description	Responsible	Completed?
1	Invite Humane Slaughter Association rep to the September conference at Penrith	PP	
2	Talk to Kate Hovers about the meeting at Malvern. Re castration / tail docking.	AC	
3	Follow up with BVA regarding current lamb castration policy.	RM	
4	Send email to speakers at Belfast Conference to inform them re expenses that can be claimed.	RM	
5	Need to inform members to arrange Sheep Meet meetings on expression of interest basis.	RM?	
6	To reply to the person/student that asked regarding an SVS bursary, that it has been suspended indefinitely.	HR	
7	BVA governance feedback required by 28 March. Regarding non vets / non BVA members holding office in divisions.	AC	

Date of next meeting

RM, PP, HR and Moyna - Mid-March to finalise conference;

For all: mid-April? Doodle poll nearer the time

End of meeting:

Rebecca thanked those that attended and the meeting ended at 13h10

Attached Documents:

1. 15 feb22 APPG agri extension stakeholders RM notes



15feb22 APPG agri
extension stakehold

2. AHWPathway Defra policy update – pre-briefing 21 feb 22



AHWPathway Defra
policy update - preb

3. Fluke Test-Based Control Infographic



Fluke Test-Based
Control.pdf

4. SAGG report feb 2022



SAGG report feb
2022.doc