



Sheep Veterinary Society
Division of the British Veterinary Association

August 2022

Update from the President

As I write this newsletter, parts of England are enduring drought conditions affecting crop yields and grazing, with cattle and sheep being buffer fed forage intended to get livestock through the winter. Hosepipe bans threatening green manicured lawns are the least concern for farmers. The impact of climate change on farming focuses the mind when considering the wider benefits of parts of the Environment Land Management Scheme (ELMS) funding for sustainable farming and local nature / landscape recovery. We will need to have greater involvement in preparing our farming clients for what the future holds and perhaps, in England, this starts with the Animal Health and Welfare Pathway vet visits, which are part of the Future Farming Programme. Similar schemes are planned for Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

This dovetails nicely with some of the themes and presentations that we have in store for you at the Autumn conference, to be held 17 – 19 October at the North Lakes Hotel, just off the M6 in Penrith and within walking distance of the train station. Details and booking form are included in this mailing.



The conference will start with a half day workshop exploring new ways to engage with your sheep farmers, technical skills for addressing common flock problems, including getting the data to measure improvements, and will be useful for all vets but especially for those in England preparing for Pathway vet review visits. During the conference, we have sessions on current welfare issues, the latest on endemic diseases including OPA and sheep scab, and a great selection of short papers covering a wide range of topics. The Wednesday morning will be a not-to-be-missed visit to the farm of James Rebanks, sheep farmer, author and environmentalist, to hear about the changes made to the farm to embrace nature and biodiversity. Places are limited so get your booking confirmed asap! The AGM will also be held and any items for the agenda should be notified to the secretariat in advance please.

At the Belfast conference we raised over £300 for The Conservation Volunteers charity, through carbon offset donations and the raffle of the book 'Fasciolosis' kindly donated by John Dalton. At the Autumn conference we intend to raise money for VetLife, which celebrates the 30 year anniversary of its Helpline this year. For those at the Belfast conference the conversations that arose following Peter Hynes' sharing his own mental health struggles made it clear that we all know or have known someone within the profession who has experienced depression, and suicide is sadly not a rarity. The importance of asking for help and having somewhere to turn to that will not judge but can offer support when needed is what VetLife can provide. You can donate to VetLife at <https://www.vetlife.org.uk/donate/> and we will have buckets for loose change and donations at the conference.



Forthcoming events

- SVS with Flock Health Clubs 'Engaging with Sheep Farmers' workshops – September 2022 – more details below <https://sheepvetsoc.org.uk/news/cpd-pathway-workshops-engaging-with-sheep-farmers-cpd/>
- SVS Autumn conference, Penrith, Cumbria 17 – 19 October 2022
- BCVA Congress 21 – 23 October 2022 <https://www.bcva.org.uk/cpd/bcvacongress2022> with the sheep stream in the Dexter room on the Friday morning
- Dairy Sheep and Goat Online Conference Saturday 12 November 2022 - Register your interest <https://dairysheepandgoat.com/events-and-conference/>
- Ceva Sheep Meets locally – more info below
- The 10th International Sheep Veterinary Congress (ISVC), 6th – 10th March 2023 in Seville, Spain – more info below
- The 11th International Sheep Veterinary Congress (ISVC), 10th – 14th March 2025 in Wollongong, Australia. The congress theme is 'Healthy Sheep to Feed and Clothe the World' <http://www.intsheepvetassoc.org/11th-isvc-2025>

SVS with Flock Health Clubs Workshops – September 2022

In September, we are running 3 workshops in England. These are for all vets looking to engage more with their sheep farming clients, but will be especially suited to vets that don't do much sheep work and who want to do more. This may also include those vets who may be going on to sheep farms to carry out the Pathway Vet Review Visits. If you or a colleague feel in need of a refresher to boost confidence and get the most out of this opportunity for your farmers and for your practice, then this is the course for you! Further information and link to the booking form is on the SVS website events page <https://sheepvetsoc.org.uk/news/cpd-pathway-workshops-engaging-with-sheep-farmers-cpd/>



Engaging with Sheep Farmers CPD (particularly for vets who don't regularly see many sheep!)

These workshops are suitable for vets who want to:

- maximise opportunities presented by potential Animal Health & Welfare Pathway funding in England.
- explore fresh ideas for sheep farmer engagement.
- brush up on technical skills & knowledge.

Thurs 15 th Sept	Seminar room, Stoneleigh Park, CV8 2TL
Weds 21 st Sept	Manor House Hotel, Okehampton, EX20 4NA
Thurs 29 th Sept	Rheged Centre, Penrith, CA11 0DQ

All workshops run from 10am to 4.30pm with lunch included

Many thanks to our industry partners:



The 10th International Sheep Veterinary Congress (ISVC) – registration and submission of abstracts now open!

The **10th International Sheep Veterinary Congress (ISVC)** will be held in Seville, Spain, from 6th – 10th March 2023. The registration and submission of abstracts have recently opened, and you can find the details, along with the preliminary program, on the website: <https://isvc2023.com/index.php>



The deadline for the submission of abstracts is the 25th of September 2022, and for the early bird registration, the 1st of December 2022.

The program covers the main topics of interest for the current situation in the sheep sector: sustainability, tackling antimicrobial resistance and global threats to small ruminants. There is also a fourth stream organized by the European College of Small Ruminant Health Management (ECSRHM) and the Spanish society for sheep and goat production (SEOC).

The congress is a five-day event that includes five plenary sessions, more than seventy keynote presentations and nearly 300 oral communications. The social program will allow you to enjoy the most emblematic places in Seville. In addition, there are both pre-conference and post-conference tours available. The former is an eight-day event that will take you from the north to the south of Spain, visiting tourist attractions but also local sheep farms.

The post-conference tour will focus on Andalusia's main cities but will also include visits to Andalusian sheep farms. The organising committee is looking forward to seeing you all there!

‘Sheep Meet’ local meetings, supported by Ceva Animal Health

‘Sheep Meets’ were a little slow to get started following the launch earlier this year, but we had a very successful meeting at Penrith in July and there are further meetings in the pipeline. Look out for more information on the SVS website events listing and on social media.



Dates of meetings in the near future include:

- 5th September in Perth
- 14th September in Okehampton, Devon
- 5th October in Aberystwyth

Thanks to Ceva for supporting these meetings as they are a good opportunity for any vets (open to all, not just SVS members!) in an area to get together and share information and experiences over a bite to eat. We have budget remaining for more local meetings so anyone wishing to organise a ‘Sheep Meet’ should contact the SVS secretariat for more details.

Executive Committee

At the Autumn meeting we say a huge thanks and farewell to Amy Jennings and Rachel Forster who have completed their 3 year stint on the committee. It’s not really goodbye though as Amy has taken on the task of coordinating the conference proceedings and Rachel’s opinion and expertise will still be sought particularly as she has been such a valued member of the Surveillance and Future Farming subgroup and will continue as the SVS representative on the Sheep Antibiotic Guardian Group (SAGG).

We will be seeking two new members to join the Executive Committee and expressions of interest should be sent to the secretariat in advance of the conference. Representation from different regions of the UK and different areas of veterinary work is good to have so we can offer opinion on the various consultations and industry working groups that benefit from our involvement. We are also seeking a new overseas representative and thanks go to Claire Phythian who has held this position in recent years. Expressions of interest to the secretariat please. Committee meetings are held online and there is scope for involvement in the working groups that are in your areas of interest. Speak to one of the current committee members if you'd like more information.

Following the Belfast conference, we now have a SVS representative on the BVA NI branch. Stephanie Winslow (who gave a great presentation on reducing antimicrobial use in neonatal lambs at the conference) has agreed to liaise between the 2 organisations on relevant matters and this can only strengthen the relationship for years to come.

Consultations and industry groups –

SVS have been involved in multiple BVA / RCVS consultations and industry working group meetings since the last newsletter including:

Animal Health and Welfare Pathway

SVS involvement in co-design of the Pathway has continued with representation at meetings of the various subgroups. Most recently these have reviewed the items in the capital grants scheme and the training resources that may be helpful for vets undertaking visits, particularly where this involves farm visits to less familiar species / management systems than their usual workload. The scheme is currently open to farmers for beta testing of the systems ahead of a full launch in Autumn.

If you have interested clients, then check out the blog for more information:

<https://defrafarming.blog.gov.uk/2022/07/21/farm-animal-health-and-welfare-help-us-test-the-yearly-review/>

Wales Sustainable Farming Scheme update meeting – to outline the timeline for the scheme ahead of launch planned for 2025.

Further reading:

Wales AHW Framework Implementation Plan 2022-24 <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2022-03/animal-health-and-welfare-framework-implementation-plan-2022-2024.pdf>

Five year welfare plan <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-11/animal-welfare-plan-wales-2021-26.pdf>

European Medicines Agency (EMA) public consultation on prophylactic use of antimicrobials in animals. SVS provided a response broadly agreeing with the direction of travel but urging for a more gradual move towards restrictions to allow further progress to be made towards meeting RUMA targets. Examples of evidence gaps in best practice antimicrobial use were also given (e.g. infectious keratoconjunctivitis, joint ill) and concerns raised as to the possibility of compromised welfare in flocks arising from application of the guidance. A consultation covering similar lines is expected later this year from the VMD and SVS will aim to garner members views prior to submitting a response.

BVA survey on EMS for vet students – April 2022

OPA working group – Terms of Reference of the group cover practical and achievable ways to control OPA, feasibility for future schemes / certification and increasing awareness of OPA. There has been much discussion on transthoracic ultrasonography in control of OPA. This working group is ongoing but the importance of diagnosis as

an act of veterinary surgery in discussions on potential role of lay scanners has been a focus along with the paucity of competent vets offering scanning as a service.

Welfare

Tailing and castration discussions with Trading Standards and industry representatives

Welfare In Transport Reforms Workshop: Maximum Journey Times for Cattle and Sheep – exceptions and discussion of application of EU legislation and how this will be translated into UK legislation.

Ruminant Health and Welfare Group – discussion of feasibility of pre-sale screening of sheep and discussion of the Shetland Islands Council template for disease screening.

Medicines

The RUMA Sheep Sector focus was earlier this month and the successes in reducing antimicrobial usage were showcased with plenty of social media activity from RUMA and involvement of NSA chief executive Phil Stocker, Fiona Lovatt (Farm Vet Champions Clinical Lead) and case studies from farmers and their vets. The Medicine Hub and the importance of recording to measure usage to back up the more subjective evidence of responsible use was also highlighted.



There is plenty of information at <https://www.ruma.org.uk> that is worth checking out.

The above are a summary of key areas of involvement since the last newsletter. It's been a busy and varied period as President. If you are interested in further details on any of the content, please get in touch secretariat@sheepvetsoc.org.uk

As my year as President nears an end, I will hand over the reins to Dave Wilson and we will be joined by Joe Henry as Junior Vice President. Many thanks go to Amanda Carson as she departs from the Senior Vice President role.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Penrith in October.

Thanks to all members and the committee for the continued support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rebecca Mearns'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Rebecca Mearns
President

Nominations for Membership of the Sheep Veterinary Society

<u>Name</u>	<u>Proposed By</u>	<u>Seconded By</u>	<u>Membership type</u>
<i>From May 2022</i>			
Noel Doyle	Dave Wilson	Rebecca Mearns	Full member
Nicholas Hope	Dave Wilson	Rebecca Mearns	Full member
Jade Bessenay	Dave Wilson	Rebecca Mearns	Student/New Graduate
Sharon Wainwright	Dave Wilson	Rebecca Mearns	Full member
Sebastian A Mignacca	Dave Wilson	Rebecca Mearns	Full member
Victoria Enoch	Dave Wilson	Rebecca Mearns	Full member
Sarah Kinton	Dave Wilson	Rebecca Mearns	Full member
Graham Shepherd	Dave Wilson	Rebecca Mearns	Full member
Edward Hurst	Dave Wilson	Rebecca Mearns	Associate member
Annemarie Fitzgerald	Dave Wilson	Rebecca Mearns	Full member
Becca Dodd	Dave Wilson	Rebecca Mearns	Full member
Caroline Abbott	Dave Wilson	Rebecca Mearns	Full member
Katie Pearson	Dave Wilson	Rebecca Mearns	Associate member
Laura Barlow	Dave Wilson	Rebecca Mearns	Full member
Sioned Owen	Dave Wilson	Rebecca Mearns	Student/New Graduate
Michael Dawson	Dave Wilson	Rebecca Mearns	Retired member
Ann Maria Van Eetvelt	Dave Wilson	Rebecca Mearns	Full member
Refugee FREE membership			
Arash Zara	Dave Wilson	Rebecca Mearns	Refugee membership
Mohamed Majd Tunsi	Dave Wilson	Rebecca Mearns	Refugee membership
Eiman Osman	Dave Wilson	Rebecca Mearns	Refugee membership
Yevhen Popovchenko	Dave Wilson	Rebecca Mearns	Refugee membership
Mohammad Hamdi	Dave Wilson	Rebecca Mearns	Refugee membership
Oleh Saftiuk	Dave Wilson	Rebecca Mearns	Refugee membership
Iryna Varkholiak	Dave Wilson	Rebecca Mearns	Refugee membership
Amir Vosooghi	Dave Wilson	Rebecca Mearns	Refugee membership
Liudmyla Yarova	Dave Wilson	Rebecca Mearns	Refugee membership
Nastaran Shahbazian	Dave Wilson	Rebecca Mearns	Refugee membership