



Update from the President

April 2023

It's still decidedly chilly here in St Boswells, however we know it's spring because of the large number of abortion cases coming through the PM room. It's good that so many are being investigated anyway. *Nematodirus* still seems to be mostly hiding away unhatched here however looking at the SCOPS Forecast it seems to be in full swing further south!

Face-to-face veterinary and industry meetings are also in full swing this year, with some of the biennial NSA events happening for the first time since 2019. We had a very successful SVS Autumn Conference in Penrith in October 2022. Preceded by a well-attended CPD session on farmer engagement and the AHWP, the conference covered a wide range of topics including the important subjects of OPA scanning, dog worrying and castration/tail docking. It concluded with a fascinating visit to Racy Ghyll Farm, where James Rebanks runs traditional native breeds Herdwick sheep and Galloway cattle using regenerative, low input and sustainable farming methods.

The 10th International Sheep Veterinary Congress (ISVC) was held in Seville, Spain in March and was reported to be a very successful meeting with an excellent scientific programme. The SVS was well represented with many members, past and present committee members and past Presidents presenting papers, including several as keynote speakers. The SVS presented a quaich (Scotland's cup of friendship) as a thank you gift to the Spanish Society for Sheep and Goat Production (SEOC).

Due to the ISVC Congress, the SVS are not holding a full spring conference this year. However I'm pleased to confirm that we are holding a Spring Virtual Conference on Thursday 25th May 2023, details included with this newsletter. Many thanks to Phillipa and the committee for organising a really interesting programme, and I hope that many of you will be able to attend. An OGM will follow the meeting. Our next full face-to-face conference will be our SVS Autumn Conference in Glasgow, on the 25th-27th Sep 2023 at the Golden Jubilee Conference Hotel. Further details to follow on the website. At that point I will hand the Presidency over to Joe Henry, our current Junior Vice President, so let's hope we get through to September at least without a major animal health emergency!

SVS committee members and representatives have as always been working hard behind the scenes, contributing through the BVA and independently to issues such as the Government consultations on antimicrobial resistance and the changes to veterinary medicine legislation, the Kept Animals Bill, veterinary declarations for EU exports and others. The Society is active in many industry bodies such as SCOPS, Red Tractor and the Sheep Antibiotic Guardian Group (SAGG), and responds with guidance to issues such as medicine supply issues.

Membership fees

Reminder to members that your membership was due on the 1st January 2023. Please check your standing order is for the correct amount. Contact our secretariat to arrange payment.

AMU calculator - IMPORTANT we urge vets to use up-to-date version of AMU calculator

Disease information

AMU Calculator for sheep

We are delighted to share with you the University of Nottingham Sheep Antibiotic Use Calculator. It is a tool which [...]

[View](#)

We have been made aware that there has been a faulty version of the Nottingham Sheep AMU calculator available online and we would urge all vets to check which version they are using and to re-download the most up-to-date version (3.5).

In recent years a number of practising veterinary surgeons have made use of the freely available Sheep AMU calculator that was originally developed by vets at Nottingham University, supported by funds from AHDB. The calculator allows farmers

and practitioners to input the quantities of antibiotic used on farm together with the numbers of ewes and lambs.

The calculator allows simple upload of flock antibiotic information on to the [Electronic Medicine Hub](#) which is important to demonstrate sheep sector use across the UK.

The most up-to-date version of the calculator is labelled version 3.5 and can be accessed from <https://sheepvetSOC.org.uk/knowledge-hub/amu-calculator-for-sheep/> or <https://ahdb.org.uk/sheep-antimicrobial-usage-tool>

SVS website

The new website has now been live since June 2021. It's the place to find the latest news, events listings and information, and there will be a section added for the Animal Health and Welfare Pathway soon which will link to other resources providing information on the annual vet review visit, relevant training and more!

SVS members have additional access rights and can request to add their practice details in the 'Find a Vet' tool. There are also full conference proceedings (with a handy search function). Please get posting on the discussion forum as critical mass to encourage a good flow of information has yet to be reached. Information on joining SVS is also online so please promote membership to your colleagues.

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 and access to number of recorded webinars

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.



Forthcoming events

- SVS Spring Virtual Conference Thursday 25th May 2023
- SVS Autumn conference in Glasgow 25th – 27th September 2023
- 11th International Sheep Veterinary Congress (ISVC), 10th – 14th March 2025 in Woolongong, Australia

'Sheep Meet' local meetings, supported by Ceva Animal Health



We are very pleased to announce that the local meetings, now known as 'Sheep Meets' and supported by Ceva Animal Health are restarting for 2023! These are a good opportunity for vets in an area to get together and share information on all things ovine, with refreshments provided of course.

Anyone wishing to organise a 'Sheep Meet' should contact the SVS secretariat for more details.

There is now scope to hold meetings for vets and farmers on a 'vet plus one' basis if the discussion topics are likely to be of interest to both audiences. It would be great to have meetings across the UK and to encourage young vets into working with sheep.

Looking for new Committee members



At the Autumn meeting we welcomed Leanne Forde and Heidi Svensgarde to the committee. We will be seeking two new members to join the Executive Committee at the Autumn conference. It would be great to have representation from different regions of the UK and different areas of veterinary work. This does not have to be an onerous task. Meetings are held online and there is scope for involvement in the working groups that are in your areas of interest. Over the years the Society's role has evolved and many industry working groups now benefit from our involvement. If you have ever felt as if SVS does not represent your views, then get involved! Speak to one of the current committee members if you'd like more information.

Animal Health and Welfare Pathway

The Animal Health and Welfare Pathway launched in February. This scheme provides funding of £436 for flocks of 21 sheep or more in England. The endemic disease testing priority for the sheep sector is assessing worming treatment and the 'Worming Treatment Check' is intended to be undertaken on lambs, with a confirmed worm burden (FEC > 200epg) and individual samples must be submitted (10-15 samples) to one of the approved laboratories for testing.

There have been some concerns with submissions received since the launch with samples from adult sheep and submission of samples that have been pooled on farm. In general, for most flocks, testing in lambs from mid-summer onwards will be most useful and get the most out of this testing. It's been great to see such enthusiasm with flocks registering for the AHWP Vet Review visits but for most flocks there is no sense of urgency, and waiting may be the sensible option given the need to complete testing within a 6 month window from registration to claim funding.

If you have any question on the AHWP then several of the committee are well versed in the requirements having contributed to the co-design so please get in touch.

Further info:

<https://www.scops.org.uk/internal-parasites/worms/worming-treatment-check/>

<https://apply-for-an-annual-health-and-welfare-review.defra.gov.uk/apply/guidance-for-vet>

<https://apply-for-an-annual-health-and-welfare-review.defra.gov.uk/apply/labs-sheep>

If you are interested in further details on any of the content, please get in touch secretariat@sheepvetsoc.org.uk

I look forward to seeing many of you in online in May and at industry events over the summer.

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

David Wilson
President

Nominations for Membership of the Sheep Veterinary Society

<u>Name</u>	<u>Proposed By</u>	<u>Seconded By</u>	<u>Membership</u>
<i>From September 2022</i>			
Louise Cunningham	Dave Wilson	Joe Henry	Full member
Keir Hamilton	Dave Wilson	Joe Henry	Full member
Jonathan Borradaile	Dave Wilson	Joe Henry	Full member
Josh Henry	Dave Wilson	Joe Henry	Full member
Milly Eaton	Dave Wilson	Joe Henry	Full member
Hannah Walker	Dave Wilson	Joe Henry	Full member
Sophie Chesshyre	Dave Wilson	Joe Henry	Full member
John McHugh	Dave Wilson	Joe Henry	Full member
Laura Huntenburg	Dave Wilson	Joe Henry	Student/New graduate
Sophie Prater	Dave Wilson	Joe Henry	Student/New graduate
Andrew McTeir	Dave Wilson	Joe Henry	Full member
Lucy Sullivan	Dave Wilson	Joe Henry	Full member
Bryony Jones	Dave Wilson	Joe Henry	Full member
Elizabeth Relph	Dave Wilson	Joe Henry	Full member
Maggie Leggett	Dave Wilson	Joe Henry	Full member
Graeme Lloyd	Dave Wilson	Joe Henry	Student/New graduate
Stephen Shiles	Dave Wilson	Joe Henry	Full member
Hakon Hannsson	Dave Wilson	Joe Henry	Full member
Sabrina Ross	Dave Wilson	Joe Henry	Full member
Hollie Roper	Dave Wilson	Joe Henry	Full member
Rachel Clifton	Dave Wilson	Joe Henry	Full member
Rachel Harvie	Dave Wilson	Joe Henry	Student/New graduate
Millie Hopper	Dave Wilson	Joe Henry	Student/New graduate
Juliet Allen	Dave Wilson	Joe Henry	Student/New graduate
Piers Seal	Dave Wilson	Joe Henry	Student/New graduate
Ella Fletcher	Dave Wilson	Joe Henry	Student/New graduate
Angela Beck	Dave Wilson	Joe Henry	Associate Member
Tabatha Asher	Dave Wilson	Joe Henry	Student/New graduate
Rob Kelly	Dave Wilson	Joe Henry	Full member
Anna Davies	Dave Wilson	Joe Henry	Full member
James Morland	Dave Wilson	Joe Henry	Student/New graduate
Jasmine Smith	Dave Wilson	Joe Henry	Full member
Adam Reeves	Dave Wilson	Joe Henry	Full member
Charlotte Lazell	Dave Wilson	Joe Henry	Student/New graduate
Lucy Morgan	Dave Wilson	Joe Henry	Full member
Katy Hewitson	Dave Wilson	Joe Henry	Full member
Bekkie Sherwood	Dave Wilson	Joe Henry	Student/New graduate
Molly Garbutt	Dave Wilson	Joe Henry	Full member
Emily Dawson	Dave Wilson	Joe Henry	Full member
Alexandra Ashworth	Dave Wilson	Joe Henry	Full member
Liesbeth Harkema	Dave Wilson	Joe Henry	Associate member
Maria Morris	Dave Wilson	Joe Henry	Full member
Jessica Faulkner	Dave Wilson	Joe Henry	Student/New graduate
Refugee FREE membership			
Mohannad Almohammad Alabo	Dave Wilson	Joe Henry	Refugee membership
Liliia Malakhova-Sharamova	Dave Wilson	Joe Henry	Refugee membership
Tetiama Khramova	Dave Wilson	Joe Henry	Refugee membership
Amine Nemri	Dave Wilson	Joe Henry	Refugee membership
Ahmed Elkesh	Dave Wilson	Joe Henry	Refugee membership
Alzaki Ahmed Bra Abdelgadir	Dave Wilson	Joe Henry	Refugee membership
Nataliia Shulzhenko	Dave Wilson	Joe Henry	Refugee membership