



Sheep Veterinary Society
Division of the British Veterinary Association

Update from the President

August 2023

We've certainly moved from a warm dry June into a wet July here, and I think it is similar in many parts of the country. It will hopefully mean that we avoid the continuing problems with pasture growth seen in many places last year, I thought to myself while staring at the rain through the campervan windows last week. It does however increase the risk of blowfly strike and parasitic gastroenteritis etc, and the amount and frequency of rainfall from now on until the autumn will significantly affect the liver fluke risk later this year.

Our spring online conference on 25th May was very well attended and the feedback on the speakers and topics has been excellent. Professor Juan Miguel Rodriguez from the University of Madrid covered the ovine microbiome and its effect on health and production, which gave another angle on the debates over antibiotic use. The Clinical Club on ovine infectious keratoconjunctivitis, which included Margit Groenevelt from the Netherlands and Carina Helmer from Germany among others, discussed the approach of avoiding blanket treatments and allowing immunity to develop. Finally, there was a very useful panel discussion on UK Animal Health and Welfare Schemes. Members can access a recording of the event, please see the link further down the newsletter.

Coming soon of course is the SVS Autumn Conference on the 25th - 27th Sep 2023 at the Golden Jubilee Conference Hotel in Glasgow. Full details are included with this newsletter – I hope you find the programme interesting, and I look forward to seeing many of you there. Many thanks to Phillipa, Hazel and the committee for organising it all!

SVS committee members and representatives are active on many working groups and consultations to represent our members and further the cause of sheep health and welfare. These have included, among many others, the subjects of medicine supply shortage, OPA control and veterinary declarations required for the export of products of animal origin from 13 December 2023. We continue to work with other stakeholders in these and other areas and will update members as appropriate.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Glasgow for our autumn conference.

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

Dave Wilson
President

Missed our online Spring conference? Members can view the recordings via the members dashboard.

<https://sheepvetsoc.org.uk/knowledge-hub/svs-spring-virtual-conference-may-2023/>

Huge thank you again to all our speakers, industry supporters and to Flock Health Ltd for hosting the event.



Animal Health and Welfare Pathway

We continue to be represented on the Pathway Liaison Group, meeting regularly to discuss how the roll out is going for the different sectors. Uptake by the sheep sector has been good so far, though there have been some ‘teething difficulties’ in terms of the Worming Treatment Check. Many flocks have tested too early when faecal egg counts were not high enough, though communications to address this have been improved, including recent webinars led by Lesley Stubbings and Rebecca Mearns hosted by NSA. Testing of flocks from mid-summer onwards and checking the faecal egg count is high enough to treat before going ahead with the Worming Treatment Check are advised. The RPA are aiming to streamline the application process and reducing non-compliance issues with farmer applications will speed this up. Vets can do their bit to make sure farmers are registered before doing the visit or testing.

Many sheep flocks also benefited from the first round of small-scale equipment grants that were part of the Pathway. Future plans for funding endemic disease control across sheep, cattle and pigs are in the pipeline.

SCOPS video on ‘Collecting good quality faecal samples from sheep’

SCOPS have produced a short video on collecting good quality faecal samples from sheep. Quality samples should increase the value obtained through worm and fluke egg counts as part of monitoring infection levels and treatment efficacy, whether through AHWP visits or otherwise.

The video is available here:

<https://sheepvetsoc.org.uk/knowledge-hub/scops-video-on-collecting-good-quality-faecal-samples-from-sheep/>

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



We are very pleased that our local meetings, known as Sheep Meets and supported by Ceva Animal Health, are continuing this year. 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.

Forthcoming events

- SVS Autumn conference in Glasgow 25th – 27th September 2023
- Sheep Meet event at Ponteland on Monday 6th November 2023
- Sheep Meet event in Yorkshire on Monday 6th November 2023
- Sheep Meet event at J36 branch, Crooklands on Tuesday 21st November 2023
- The 11th International Sheep Veterinary Congress (ISVC), 10th – 14th March 2025 in Woolongong, Australia

Looking for new Committee members



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.

The SVS website is the place to find the latest news, events listings, the Knowledge Hub and the Find a Sheep Vet tool. There is also a Forum where members can view, post and subscribe to various categories. 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!



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

Nominations for Membership of the Sheep Veterinary Society

<u>Name</u>	<u>Proposed By</u>	<u>Seconded By</u>	<u>Membership</u>
From May 2023			
Rachael Ashbridge	Dave Wilson	Joe Henry	Full member
Rosie Clayton	Dave Wilson	Joe Henry	Student/New Graduate
Nicola Seechurn	Dave Wilson	Joe Henry	Student/New Graduate
Emily Baxter	Dave Wilson	Joe Henry	Full member
Refugee FREE membership			
Nima Bahrami	Dave Wilson	Joe Henry	Refugee membership