



Sheep Veterinary Society
Division of the British Veterinary Association

January 2024

Good Afternoon Members,

A Happy New Year!

Just a quick update on Bluetongue and request for help from SCOPS and University of Surrey.

Bluetongue updates

Missed the recent Bluetongue virus technical webinar for vets last month, we can watch the recording

<https://sheepvetsoc.org.uk/news/bluetongue-virus-technical-webinar-for-vets/>

- <https://ruminanthw.org.uk/bluetongue-virus/#>
- New licence available for movements out of Bluetongue Temporary Control Zones where welfare need. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/bluetongue-apply-for-a-specific-movement-licence>
- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/bluetongue>

SCOPS needs your help.

Reports from around the UK suggest that the incidence of disease in sheep due to *Haemonchus contortus* has increased in recent years. This is generating requests to SCOPS for more information.

To address this need, and improve the guidance and best practice advice we provide, we are going to hold an expert workshop in early 2024.

To ensure we provide the most useful information, we need your help to define the extent of the problem, identify gaps in current advice and highlight areas where research is required.

If you could spare 5 minutes to complete this short questionnaire it would be extremely helpful, survey closes on the 22nd January 2024.

LINK to the survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MQNTZYJ>

Sheep poo needed for a research study on liver fluke

Liver fluke infections in sheep and cattle significantly impact productivity and animal health in the UK and worldwide. Current diagnostic tests for liver fluke in faeces lack sensitivity. Researchers at University of Surrey are developing a new diagnostic test for liver fluke using faecal samples based on LAMP (loop-mediated amplification) technology. It is likely that this test will be more sensitive than existing tests and, with further development, it could be used for rapid pen-side/field-friendly testing for liver fluke in animals and humans.

They are looking for sheep faecal samples, particularly from farms with a history of fluke infection, to develop and validate the test.

If you would like further information about the study or would like to take part, please contact Martha Betson, Associate Professor in Veterinary Parasitology, m.betson@surrey.ac.uk.

Forthcoming local events:-

- Spring SVS online conference – Date to be confirmed
- Autumn SVS conference – 23rd – 25th September 2024 in Morpeth, Northumberland
<https://sheepvetsoc.org.uk/events/svs-autumn-conference-3/>

Check out our website for other news and events

<https://sheepvetsoc.org.uk/>