



Update from the President

April 2024

As sheep vets we are out in all weathers – it just a shame it seems to of been continually raining for 9 months here on the “dry” east coast of Northumberland. Weather woes aside, our farmers fairly happy with very strong prices for their sheep and a bit of grass amongst the mud. Those farmers that have modified systems to be less reliant on inputs but still achieving reasonable outputs benefiting the most.

If it's good for grass it's good for parasites so later this year we are likely to see more problems with GIT worms and fluke than we have for the last couple of years. On diseases to be seen later this year I am afraid Bluetongue Virus Serotype 3 is likely to come across and start circulating in the UK. So far we have only seen surveillance cases picked up from an autumn blowing over of infected midges from the continent and we have been lucky that the viral load was low so there were no clinical signs and that the incursion happened late in the year; BTV3 needs to the ambient temperature to be over 12 degrees centigrade for 3 days to replicate in the midge. Hopefully the measures put in place by DEFRA and APHA in the control, protection and surveillance zones mean that it has not over-wintered here, buying us time.

Our Dutch colleagues report quite varied infection rates farm to farm but some farms have been hit very severely. Vaccination is the only real hope and may be available later this year, fingers crossed but it is likely we will have disease here before then.

AHDB having been running some useful webinars on BTV3 this winter with more to come <https://ahdb.org.uk/bluetongue-virus-technical-webinars> which we have had input into. Information can also be found on the SVS website <https://sheepvetsoc.org.uk/knowledge-hub/bluetongue-virus-technical-webinar-for-vets/>.

Indeed there have been at least weekly BTV3 meetings since November - not as quiet a presidency as I'd hoped!

The committee have been attending Ruminant Health & Welfare Steering Group, Defra and APHA Bluetongue meetings, Bluetongue Roundtable with Ministers, SCOPS steering Group, Sheep Scab Strategy, SCOPS Haemonchus Workshop, Pathway Veterinary Group, OPA Working Group, Assoc. of Independent Meat Suppliers (AIMS) Annual Health and Welfare Review meeting and ILG meeting (medicine hub Industry Liaison Group) on your behalf of the society to name a few.

The first year of AHWP has paid farmers to get engaged with sheep vets and is going in the right direction with some further changes this year.

CEVA sponsored sheep meets have been well attended last year with 5 local meetings, in person sheep based CPD. These are an excellent springboard for younger members to start their presenting skills in a low pressure environment.

The Glasgow conference last autumn was great with some good practical topics covered and chance to meet colleagues new and old over a drink and discussion.

We have the virtual spring meeting to come on Monday 22nd May 2024 which also promises to be very interesting, detailed programme enclosed.

Later in the year we have the autumn conference in Morpeth, Northumberland 23rd – 25th September amongst other things visiting some large farms some of which are embracing Veterinary data driven decisions, tasting some gin made on an estate that has changed to regen/rewilding agricultural production and having dinner in the Alnwick Garden.

Membership fees

Reminder to members that your membership was due on the 1st January 2024. Please check your standing order is for the correct amount. Please contact our secretariat to arrange payment.

Forthcoming events

- BVA Live event in Birmingham, 6th – 7th June 2024
- SVS Autumn conference in Morpeth, 23rd – 25th September 2024
- 11th International Sheep Veterinary Congress (ISVC), 10th – 14th March 2025 in Woolongong, Australia

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

We are delighted to announce that the local meetings, now known as 'Sheep Meets' and supported by Ceva Animal Health are restarting for 2024!



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 local 'Sheep Meet' should contact the SVS secretariat for more details. It would be great to have meetings across the UK, and to encourage young vets into working with sheep.

Recording a Vet Attestation digitally using the Livestock Information Service (LIS)

With the ongoing efforts to carry out Vet Attestations for livestock holdings in the UK, it's great to see so many farm vets using the Livestock Information Service (LIS) portal to digitally record a Vet Attestation for a sheep keepers' holding in England.

Since the option to digitally record a Vet Attestation went live on LIS in December 2023, there has been 284 vets sign on to digitally record Vet Attestations for a total of 1,127 livestock holdings.

Remember, if the farm is part of a [farm assurance scheme](#) such as Red Tractor, they do not need to take any action. For those who aren't, there is a requirement for them to obtain a signed attestation from a registered farm vet to confirm that a vet visit has taken place on the holding. The vet attestation visit can be combined with other routine vet visits, so long as all livestock species on the farm are considered.

For additional guidance, FAQ's and a video demonstration of how to use LIS, please visit:

<https://livestockinformation.org.uk/vet-attestation/>.

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 our members and the committee for their continued support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Henry", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Joseph Henry BVMS Cert SHP MRCVS
President, Sheep Veterinary Society
RCVS accredited Advanced Practitioner in Sheep Health and Production

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 2023</i>			
Gemma Loader	Joe Henry	Kim Hamer	Full member
David Taylor	Joe Henry	Kim Hamer	Full member
Catherine Tomkins	Joe Henry	Kim Hamer	Student & New graduate
Rachael Oven	Joe Henry	Kim Hamer	Full member
Maya Ramlogan	Joe Henry	Kim Hamer	Student & New graduate
Rachael Robertson	Joe Henry	Kim Hamer	Full member
Roma Wyllie	Joe Henry	Kim Hamer	Full member
Caroline Jewell	Joe Henry	Kim Hamer	Full member
Ffiona Mair Huntley	Joe Henry	Kim Hamer	Student & New graduate
Valerie Freeman	Joe Henry	Kim Hamer	Full member
Rebecca Bradley	Joe Henry	Kim Hamer	Full member
Gunhild Myrset Davies	Joe Henry	Kim Hamer	Full member
Brian Eadie	Joe Henry	Kim Hamer	Associate member
Hannah Clifford	Joe Henry	Kim Hamer	Full member
Louise Driscoll	Joe Henry	Kim Hamer	Full member
Emily Rainbow	Joe Henry	Kim Hamer	Full member
Claire Neillans	Joe Henry	Kim Hamer	Associate member
Rob Grinnall	Joe Henry	Kim Hamer	Full member
Jane Morgan	Joe Henry	Kim Hamer	Full member
Danielle Mzyk	Joe Henry	Kim Hamer	Full member
Sophie Skyrme	Joe Henry	Kim Hamer	Full member
Douglas Palmer	Joe Henry	Kim Hamer	Full member
Catherine Basford	Joe Henry	Kim Hamer	Student & New Graduate
Radu Morindau	Joe Henry	Kim Hamer	Full member
Charlotte Birchall	Joe Henry	Kim Hamer	Full member
Cat McLaughlin	Joe Henry	Kim Hamer	Associate member
Gariba Abuobakar	Joe Henry	Kim Hamer	Full member
Andre Baptista	Joe Henry	Kim Hamer	Full member
Helen Conway	Joe Henry	Kim Hamer	Full member
Muchtaq Lashari	Joe Henry	Kim Hamer	Associate member
Refugee FREE membership			
Hanna Lemeshchuk	Joe Henry	Kim Hamer	Refugee membership
Farzad Stanikzai	Joe Henry	Kim Hamer	Refugee membership
Tetiana Fedchenko	Joe Henry	Kim Hamer	Refugee membership
Nour Adb Elguom AdbElhay Mohamed	Joe Henry	Kim Hamer	Refugee membership
Addul Mobin Samadi	Joe Henry	Kim Hamer	Refugee membership
Oleh Saftiuk	Joe Henry	Kim Hamer	Refugee membership
Roman Shumeyko	Joe Henry	Kim Hamer	Refugee membership
Maryna Marchenko	Joe Henry	Kim Hamer	Refugee membership
Mujtaba Rezaei	Joe Henry	Kim Hamer	Refugee membership
Malalai Haikal	Joe Henry	Kim Hamer	Refugee membership
Hamida Shabae	Joe Henry	Kim Hamer	Refugee membership
Zahra Ensafi	Joe Henry	Kim Hamer	Refugee membership
Anzhelika Kozak	Joe Henry	Kim Hamer	Refugee membership