

Ruminant Health & Welfare newsletter

Welcome to the May edition

While it's been a busy time on farm for many with spring lambing and calving taking place, the RH&W group working across the four nations continue in our collective efforts to share insights, explore research and progress welfare strategies.

I was pleased to be able to share the progress made so far and our bigger picture plans with Katie Jones at Farmers Guardian in this recent interview [here](#).

With reference to [BTV-3](#), much preparatory work is going on in the background as we all consider how best we can use the group's experts, network and learnings so far to help prepare for any potential developments for bluetongue (BTV-3) when the warmer weather returns.

Keep an eye out for upcoming BTV webinars as well as Defra's series of technical webinars – the bluetongue hub link above contains all the latest updates.

Work continues on how we can inform and influence on key industry issues across the devolved nations with the technical expertise and knowledge from the steering group, and in a similar vein, plans are moving on for the upcoming GB calf strategy report.

Following our recent newsletters we have been delighted to welcome several new members to the RH&W steering group which is excellent. Remember if you or someone you know are keen to explore how get involved in our welfare strategies, or have further feedback for the group, please do email RuminantHW@ahdb.org.uk.

Gwyn Jones
Chair
RH&W

BTV Technical webinars

What do vets need to know about treating BTV cases?

The next BTV technical webinar will take place from 3 - 4:30 pm on Wednesday 15 May.

The session will be chaired by Fiona Lovatt with speakers Rachael Tarlinton and Mark van der Heijden

Sign up [here](#).

Plan, Prevent and Protect webinars from Defra

Watch this series of recent webinars [here](#).

Podcast

Listen again to the BTV-3 vaccines podcast powered by AHDB, featuring vet and AHDB Head of Animal Health and Welfare Dr Mandy Nevel, veterinary vaccine consultant Prof. Andy Peters &

Dr Carrie Batten from Pirbright.
Listen here: <https://bit.ly/4a8OSIW>

Bluetongue advice for farmers

RH&W's advice to farmers and their vets remains three-fold, farmers need to beware when buying animals in, take action to report any signs, and always, remain vigilant, even during the vector low period for midges.

Call the below hotline to get advice or ask questions linked to the current situation:
bluetongue hotline on 024 7771 0386.

Lambing Survey

A call for affected and unaffected farm participation

The University of Nottingham School of Veterinary Science and Medicine lambing survey will close this month, so please get your responses in now.

Even if your farm has not been affected by Schmallenberg this season, it is very useful for the research process to have comparative data.

The research, as previously mentioned will allow the industry to better understand the impact and scale this year from Schmallenberg as well as BTV-3 virus.

Take part [here](#).

Methane report

The 'Acting on methane' report is a great source of information for having conversations about reducing emissions from ruminants. It outlines how the carbon intensity of production can be reduced which in turn reduces emissions. Greatest impact is achieved by focussing on conditions which improve food conversion efficiency, growth rates and the involuntary or premature culling of breeding stock.

You can find the full report [here](#).

Updated 'Know Your Anthelmintics Groups' guide from SCOPS

This helpful guide from SCOPS has been recently updated.

Click [here](#) to view the latest version.

Why not join the conversation on Twitter/X? [Follow](#) and tag us @ruminanthw

Other news from the industry

General

- [Independent report on beef and lamb production standards released](#)
- [New Welsh bovine TB advisory group 'a positive step forward'](#)
- [RABI pledges for mental health support](#)

Sheep

- [NSA welcomes change to SFI actions but says more could more be done to protect future food production](#)
- [How cobalt deficiency test led to higher lamb weights](#)
- [Sheep population continues downward trend, census shows](#)
- [Lambing event cancelled due to spread of virus](#)

Cattle

- [Transition milk trial targets calf health at Welsh dairy farm](#)
- [Farmers asked for views on cattle ID](#)
- [Lameness in beef cattle: Effect, causes and treatment](#)
- [6 things to watch out for in wet spring maize campaign](#)

Upcoming events

May - September

NSA regional events

26th - 27th June

[Goat Veterinary Society Summer Conference](#)

We are an independent, industry-based body tasked with helping farmers and stock managers tackle sheep and cattle disease, and build the health and welfare status, resilience and production efficiency of our national flock and herd. See more about our aims [here](#).



RH&W communications is sponsored by MSD Animal Health, but RH&W retains full editorial control and independence.

Copyright © 2024 Ruminant Health & Welfare, All rights reserved.

You are receiving this email because you expressed an interest in RH&W or have opted in via our website.

Our mailing address is:

Ruminant Health & Welfare

(c/o AHDB),

Middlemarch Business Park, Siskin Parkway East

Coventry, Warwickshire CV3 4PE

United Kingdom