



Sheep Veterinary Society
Division of the British Veterinary Association

Update from the President

July 2025

Dear SVS members,

Summer has finally arrived, even in Scotland. I was lucky enough to spend the best few days on the Island of Tiree, admiring the Dutch Spotted sheep grazing next to the sea. Even there, Bluetongue is an overshadowing concern for livestock keepers. As the first few clinical cases of the year are announced, we are all waiting to see what the summer and autumn will bring. There is still a lot of guidance for vets and farmers on the Ruminant Health and Welfare website (<https://ruminanthw.org.uk/bluetongue-virus-information-for-vets/battlebluetongue-vet-information/>, <https://ruminanthw.org.uk/bluetongue-virus/>). Please make use of these resources to help your clients make decisions about vaccination and animal movements.

There is good news in political spheres, with a Common Understanding between the EU and UK. This includes collaboration on biosecurity and animal/animal product movements. Also, the BVA, NSA and SVS have been raising awareness on welfare-related issues, including lamb castration and tail docking, and non-stun slaughter. The latter forming the subject of a recent debate in parliament. The SVS committee have also been raising concerns with BVA and DEFRA about the recent change to the law on on-farm emergency slaughter of neonatal lambs. We have concerns about the practicality of implementing these new requirements. In addition, there have been many discussions with various stakeholders about medicine supply and recording, particularly the supply of vaccines, medicine supply to Northern Ireland, disposal of sheep dip and Medicine Hub.

We are very grateful to everyone who volunteered to be the **SVS representative on the BVA Scottish board**. Ann van Eetvelt was first in line, so many thanks to her for taking on this role to work with us.

At SVS, we are looking for a new secretary. We are incredibly grateful to Rudolf Reichel for the work that he has done in this position over the last 5 years. This role allows an insight into the goings on across the sheep industry and the opportunity to contribute to the SVS influence on these. If you would be interested in this role, or would like more information, please contact Hazel Rice at secretariat@sheepvetsoc.org.uk.

We are also looking for two **new committee members**, as Heidi Svensgarde and Leanne Forde step down after their 3-year term. The aim is to fit the roles with relevant interests such as Animal Welfare, Assurance Schemes and Sustainability, although these will be negotiable with the new members. If you are interested, please contact Kim Hamer and Hazel Rice (secretariat@sheepvetsoc.org.uk).



CEVA have agreed again to fund the **Sheep Meets** events for 2025. These are intended to be evenings for vets in a region to come together and discuss sheep-related clinical cases or issues that they have encountered. We are looking for members willing to run one of these events in your area.

Please contact Hazel Rice (secretariat@sheepvetsoc.org.uk) for further information.



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2025 UK lambing survey



The **lambing survey** run by University of Nottingham School of Veterinary Science and Medicine is still available.

Please go to [2025 UK Lambing Survey - Sheep Veterinary Society](#)

We have the autumn meeting coming up on 22nd – 24th September 2025, which promises to be very interesting, see enclosed programme.

Forthcoming events

- 11th International Sheep Veterinary Congress (ISVC), 27th – 31st October in Woolongong, Australia

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

I look forward to seeing many of you in beautiful mid-Wales in September.

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

Yours sincerely,

Kim Hamer VetMB CertAVP (SHEEP) Dip.ECSRHM MRCVS
President
Sheep Veterinary Society