



WELSH LAMB & BEEF PRODUCERS LTD

NEWSletter

WINTER 2018



Thank you!

First of all, many thanks to all of our members who've undertaken a review of the use of animal medicines with their vets in recent months since the FAWL standards were updated back in July. We really appreciate the extra effort that both members and vets have put in. While there have been a couple of glitches along the way, we sincerely believe that it's worth it.

The change in standard was introduced because of the growth in anti-biotic resistance and the efforts being put in place to reduce the threat from what is referred to as anti-microbial resistance or AMR for short. Government and doctors have warned that AMR is a real threat to human health and we owe it to future generations to take the problem seriously, otherwise they are the ones who will pay the price when they lose the option of using these medicines.

While the cause of AMR is regarded to be the over-use of anti-biotics by us, humans, it's also argued that extensive use of anti-biotics in agriculture has contributed to the problem. The finger of blame in this regard has usually been pointed at the pork and poultry sectors. Unfortunately, when WLBP have been involved in discussions with other stakeholders, be they government or retailers and suggested that beef and lamb producers don't use anti-biotics to anything like other sectors, we are simply asked, 'prove it'. Unfortunately, we've had very little evidence to support our argument, so WLBP are doing two things.

Firstly, we've asked members to review their anti-biotic use with vets with a view to reducing it even further so that we can say that our members are being

proactive and taking the problem seriously. Secondly, we've set up the farm records website that members can use to record the use of all medicines, including the use of anti-biotics. The website is confidential to individual members but importantly, we can collate data together to gather evidence about the amount of anti-biotics being used overall. That general data will be useful not just to show government, consumers or retailers what the actual level of anti-biotic use on Welsh livestock farms is but it will enable us to explain to our members what the comparative level of use is on similar farms so that we can benchmark farms from similar backgrounds and share that information with members.

So many thanks once more for participating in the annual review and a repeat invitation to all to join the numerous members who already use the WLBP Farm Records to do so as well. You can find it on <https://farmrecords.wlbp.co.uk/WLBP/Default.aspx> or contact **Llŷr Lewis** or **Sion Ifans** on **01970 636688**.



A training event held for Veterinary Practices in October regarding the Annual Health and Welfare review.

Who is Checking my FAWL Status?



In the period between April 2018 and September 2018 the farm assurance status of our members was checked **167,178** times. These checks were done online on the FAWL Web checker which is available to everyone who registers to use it.

The web checker is mainly used by markets, abattoirs, collection centres, livestock buyers, agricultural merchants and local authorities. These businesses use the web checker to check members FAWL statuses. These checks

are crucial if they are purchasing Farm Assured Welsh livestock.

Merchants can also use the checker when FAWL members purchase vermin control. An added benefit of being a FAWL member is that the Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use (CRRU) gives recognition to members who comply to the scheme standards, which means FAWL members do not need to undertake a course to purchase rodenticides.

It is important that our members notify the FAWL office of any changes to their farm details i.e. CPH number or trading name, as this might affect their Farm Assurance status.

FAWL office: 01970 636688 info@fawl.co.uk
Web Checker: www.fawl.co.uk

Dairy Herd takes advantage of Farm Records facility

Rhys Morgan and his mother Mary run a dairy herd at Tynbeili Farm, Llanrhystud near Aberystwyth.

Tynbeili comprises of 187 Holstein and Pedigree Ayrshire dairy cows and 90 youngstock. The herd is milked twice a day in a 10/20 swing over parlour. The cows are housed over winter and out during the summer months instead of with an all year-round calving pattern. All replacement cattle are bred on farm. The herd average a yearly yield of 8800lt per cow, and all the milk is sold to Wales's leading farmer-owned dairy co-operative South Caernarfon Creameries.



Since February 2018 Rhys has taken advantage of the WLBP online Farm Records facility which is available free to all FAWL Welsh Organic Scheme and Dairy assurance scheme members.

Rhys previously used paper sheets and excel to record information and registered movements, births and deaths on the BCMS website. Rhys stated:

'I wanted to centralise all my farm records in one place. I heard that the WLBP Farm Records can do all my cross-compliance records including my herd register and medicine book.'

'Setting up was easy as I could import all the cattle information from BCMS. Llŷr Lewis was also on hand to assist me from the start and is available whenever I have any questions about the system.'

'By linking up to BCMS I can register all my movements, births and deaths direct on the Farm Records website. It then populates my online herd book as well as sending the information to BCMS.'

Rhys also uses the Stock Move Express app which is linked to WLBP Farm Records. The app allows users to input records on or offline when on the farm.

Rhys considers this a huge advantage:

'I find the app to be very useful, I do 80% of my recording on the app in real time when on the farm especially recording movements and inputting medicine purchases and treatments. This saves me a lot of time as it works out the withdrawal period and date for me. I tend to use the website when I register births as I can enter more than one animal at a time and to view my records.'

Rhys believes that the WLBP Farm Records has been a huge benefit to the family business as it has provided them with a recording tool that is easy to use and assists with complying with all the statutory requirements of running a dairy enterprise.

'When it comes to farm inspections, I can either display my online records or export information from the system if required, as I have already entered the records on a day to day basis whilst on the farm. Public awareness of farming practices is increasing and the need for industry to provide evidence that we are farming responsibly is increasing. This system allows me to collate data and information that provides that reassurance. Responsible use of medicine in agriculture is a topic that is under scrutiny and as farmers we need to demonstrate that we are using products responsibly.'

Rhys is looking forward to using the new look and updated version of WLBP Farm Records and he will continue to use the facility that is available to him by being a member of WLBP.



For further information regarding the WLBP Farm Records facility please contact our co-ordinators:
Llŷr Lewis – 07741 549270 llyrl@wlbpc.co.uk
Sion Ifans – sionifans@wlbpc.co.uk

Royal Welsh Winter Fair 2018

We will once again have a stand at this year's Royal Welsh Winter Fair at Builth Wells on the 26th and 27th of November. The stand is located on the balcony overlooking the cattle ring – stand number 271. There will be an opportunity on the stand for you to create an account on the online Farm Records facility and to view how the system could benefit your business. Please remember to call by and meet us!



WLBP – Social Media



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Farm Records Updates

As we encourage you as members of WLBP to take advantage of the Farm Records farm software that's available exclusively to you through your membership of either FAWL, Welsh Organic scheme or the Dairy assurance scheme, we are constantly looking to improve and update the software based on feedback from users.

New layout

Over the next few months the layout of the Farm Records facility will be updated. This update includes improvements to the accessibility of features such as accessing your Herd register or Flock book. The new layout will include tabs that clearly direct you to what you require to do as seen below.

There will also be support videos on the Farm Records homepage which will provide a guide to various aspects of the facility.



Medicine Records and Animal Health Plan

The medicine records (purchases and treatments) on Farm Records are now linked to the online Animal Health Plan. This means that the relevant medicine records are inputted once and then populated in the medicine book and the Animal Health Plan. This avoids having to duplicate information. There is also a facility to import medicine treatments from your medicine records in to the Annual Health and Welfare review completed in conjunction with your vet.

FAWL Management Book

There is an online version of the FAWL Management Book available either to complete online or to download and print as a blank copy. If your medicine records are completed through Farm Records, the online version of the FAWL Management Book is automatically populated in the appropriate section.

There is also an option to download a blank copy of the Annual Health and Welfare review if required.

iPhone App update on Stock Move Express

Version 2.2 of Stock Move Express for Apple iOS is now available for users to download or upgrade using the Apple App Store. The release adds the ability for premium subscription users to record and view weights and management groups.

If you require further information or assistance with the Farm Records facility please contact **Llŷr Lewis** on 07741 549270/llyrl@wlbpc.co.uk or **Sion Ifans** sionifans@wlbpc.co.uk



Organic Members Update

ADVERTISEMENTS: If any of our organic members have temporary grazing available then you could put an advert in the classified section of the Welsh Organic Scheme website at www.welshorganic.co.uk by contacting Lorna or Nicola at QWFC on 01970 636688. You could place an advert for any other organic related item if you wanted to, it's free of charge.

ORGANIC CERTIFICATES: One of the issues that QWFC staff need to do before issuing organic certificates is to ensure that members' maps are up to date and cover the whole farm. We'd be grateful if you could provide the latest ones when requested.

QUERIES: If any of our organic members have any queries about the Welsh Organic Scheme, it's better if you were to phone the QWFC office rather than contact one of our assessors. If you have any queries, please phone 01970 636688.



Get ready for FAWL:

- Stock to view
- Annual Health & Welfare review completed by the vet
- Lockable Medicine cupboard up to date ?
- Ensure fuel tank is compliant with Oil Regs Wales
- Cattle and Sheep facilities available to view and in a good state of repair
- FAWL Management Record Book up to date?
- Herd/Flock Register, Medicine purchases and administration records up to date
- Feed and Plastic Waste Receipts
- Certificates (NPTC /NSTS/Transportation Authorisation)
- Feed storage and Vermin Control Policy

These are a few tips to get ready for the FAWL inspection. However, please note that the assessment will cover all FAWL standards.

*Any queries, please do not hesitate to contact
us at the office: 01970 636688*