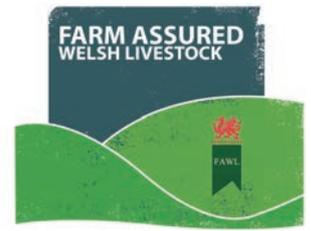


WELSH LAMB & BEEF PRODUCERS LTD

# NEWSletter

SUMMER 2018



## Benefits of Annual Health and Welfare Review

As of the 1st of July 2018 one of the new standards introduced within the FAWL scheme is the Annual Livestock Health and Welfare Review (8c). This standard requires an annual review to be undertaken with the farm vet and provides an opportunity for discussion regarding practices involving the use of antibiotics and anthelmintics. (Please see article *FAWL standards revisions* for the reasoning behind introducing the new standard).

It has been well documented over the last few years about the issues regarding anthelmintic resistance and the challenges it brings when trying to operate a successful livestock enterprise and to safeguard future worming treatments. The same can be said about successful liver fluke treatments based on levels of Triclabendazole resistance discovered.

### Antibiotics

The use of antibiotics and Highest Priority Critically Important Antibiotics (HP-CIAs) is also under scrutiny within the red meat industry. The Annual Health and Welfare review will provide members with an opportunity for a one to one discussion with their farm vet to monitor and discuss the various treatments currently used on farm. The effectiveness of these treatments can be discussed and how the use of vaccinations could potentially reduce the amount of antibiotics used on farm.

Claire Jones from Milfeddygon Dolgellau Cyf has recently been working with their clients in developing a Flock Health Club within the practice. The Flock Health Club includes various meetings throughout the year as well as a visit to the farm by an assigned vet for discussions based around a Health Plan and a Health and Welfare review. Claire strongly believes that The Annual Health and Welfare review alongside an active Health Plan will enable farmers to utilise the treatments available more effectively and will help to sustain the use of various anthelmintic groups etc.

### Vet Comments

*“There’s huge emphasis on monitoring the antibiotics and anthelmintics used within all livestock sectors. Through creating and maintaining an Annual Health and Welfare review it provides an opportunity for both the farmer and ourselves to discuss the health issues they have on their farm and how they are addressing it.”*

When asked about how they were going to address visiting the farms within the practice, Claire noted:

*“We can be flexible on how and when a farmer would want to complete a review. They can visit us in the practice where we will have their medicine purchases to hand or if they are part of the Flock Health club we can arrange a visit specifically to discuss what they have put together.”*



Claire Jones of Milfeddygon Dolgellau Cyf discussing aspects relating to completing an Annual Livestock Health and Welfare Review with a client of the practice, Emlyn Roberts.

A copy of the Annual Livestock Health and Welfare Review can be found on the FAWL website [www.fawl.co.uk](http://www.fawl.co.uk)

### Chairman’s message

Welcome to WLBP’s summer newsletter. I hope that you find the articles interesting and informative. You will note that during our Spring newsletter we informed you of a change to the FAWL standard which came into effect from the 1 of July. Not one week passes where antimicrobial resistance is not written or talked about with agriculture being used as an example where improvements need to be made to secure the future use of these highly important products. WLBP are therefore taking this issue very seriously and believe we can demonstrate that members are proactively working with their vet to ensure that medicines are being used responsibly on Welsh farms. While we are currently receiving good returns for our labour with lamb and beef prices where they need to be if farmers are to make a reasonable income, the long-term future of the industry hangs in the balance as politicians seek to establish a future agricultural budget and policy for Wales post Brexit. Having got through a very long and challenging winter and spring we’re currently enduring a very dry and warm start to our summer, we could certainly do with a drop of rain at the time of writing. Time seems to be flying and the annual Royal Welsh summer show is just around the corner. I’d like to take this opportunity to wish the feature county for this year’s show, Montgomeryshire, and in particular their President for the year Tom Tudor (a past chairman of WLBP) all the best for the show.



*All the best for the season.  
David Bebb-Evans, WLBP Chairman*

## Carbon Data Collection Project

WLBP have recently worked on a project alongside ADAS and Bangor University in collecting data that will be used to create an Online Carbon Foot print and Gross Margin tool.



Funded by the Welsh Government Wales Rural Development Plan, the tool will give Welsh farm businesses the opportunity to assess their Beef, Lamb or Dairy enterprise and compare themselves anonymously to their peers allowing Welsh farmers to demonstrate continuous improvement and secure some market advantage to off-set future uncertainties.

ADAS produced an online data collection tool which was populated by farm assurance assessors on a voluntary basis agreed with WLBP.

Overall, the feedback has been positive with many farmers engaging and contributing towards an aspect they see that has the potential to promote red meat. Many were also aware of the potential of reducing their carbon footprint in relation to enterprise output and profitability.

The most positive feedback from several farmers was that prior to this exercise they had not considered how much they were spending on some carbon 'inputs' and translating this to £s had a significant effect on their thinking. Some farmers had realised that they could change some of their practices to improve their carbon position but also and more importantly to them reduce their input costs.

The exercise overall was worthwhile with many forward-thinking farmers seeing the need and more importantly the benefits from supply chain opportunity. The response from many farmers was positive with many seeing positives from merely sitting down and re-thinking some of their traditional farming practices especially relating to 'Carbon' inputs.

## Website and Farm Records Development

Online services are becoming more relevant to all industries including agriculture. As more people have access to the internet through smart phones and tablets WLBP see that it's important to keep our online facilities updated.

We are currently working with developers in revamping our website. The new site will be more interactive and will be updated regularly with news and information on all WLBP activities including FAWL, Welsh Organic and QWFC.



The site can be viewed on all devices including smartphones and tablets.

Our aim is to have an interactive website where members can download and print documents. This way members will always

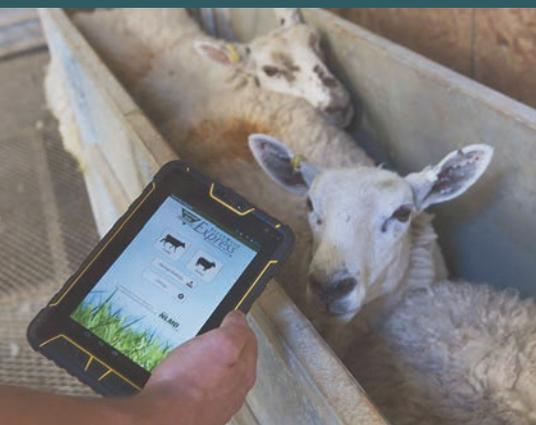
have instant access to relevant documentation. The website will also continue to be a platform for our Online Web Checker tool, where members, buyers and retailers can check the assurance status of our FAWL members.

We are also in the process of developing our WLBP Farm Records facility. This will happen in 3 phases with the first phase happening in July with the updates in the FAWL Management Book. The second phase will be our online Health Plan. We want to make this a more accessible and interactive tool where members can refer to it throughout the working year. The third phase will be an update to the look and layout of the WLBP Farm Records site, the new format will have clear defined tabs that direct you to the required section. It will also have a new notification service where reminders and alerts can be sent to you via email or to your phone.

We see that these updates will strengthen our online tools facility and we see that members will benefit greatly by using them.

*If you would like further information, please contact Llyr Lewis 01970 636688 / 07741 549270, email: [llyrl@wlbp.co.uk](mailto:llyrl@wlbp.co.uk) or visit our Farm Records website: [www.farmrecords.wlbp.co.uk](http://www.farmrecords.wlbp.co.uk)*

## Online Farm Records Software available to all WLBP members (FAWL, Dairy, and Welsh Organic scheme)



- Linked to BCMS and EID Cymru
- Movements automatically inputted into Flock and Herd registers
- Medicine purchases and treatments (including collation of antibiotic usage)
  - Automatic updates
  - Reduces paper work
- FAWL Management Record Book
  - Health Plan
- Ongoing free support



Register at: [www.farmrecords.wlbp.co.uk](http://www.farmrecords.wlbp.co.uk)

For further information contact:

Llyr Lewis: Phone: 07741 549270 Office: 01970 636688 Email: [llyrl@wlbp.co.uk](mailto:llyrl@wlbp.co.uk)

Sion Ifans: Email: [sionifans@wlbp.co.uk](mailto:sionifans@wlbp.co.uk)

## Royal Welsh 2018

We will be present at the Royal Welsh Show this year in the WAOS building (E351 between the ITV Cymru Wales and FUW buildings). WLBP staff will be there to assist or answer any questions you have. We will also be offering help and advice on how to get involved with our online tools including Farm Records.



## Recycling

You will be aware of the recent increased publicity of the use of plastic within industry and home and its potentially devastating effect on the environment.

Recycling has become a daily routine in our lives. It is also an important aspect within the FAWL standards.

**FAWL standard 18c: Plastic wastes e.g. silage wrap may only be disposed of via a waste operator who holds the relevant Environment Permitting Regulations permit.**

Within our office environment at WLBP, paper is the main contributor to our waste. We are currently reducing our paper usage through the development of our website and bespoke on-line tools facility. For us to see a significant change in our paper usage we would like you, our members to engage with us and take advantage of the online benefits we have created for you. We are eager for you to receive information electronically which would in turn reduce our demand for paper. If you would prefer to receive your correspondence via email, please contact the office **01970 636688**.

We are currently part of a used printer cartridge/toner collection scheme, where every component of the used cartridges that are collected from our office are either remanufactured or recycled; and any profit which is made on the resale goes towards Cancer Research.

## FAWL Standards revisions



FAWL standards need to be revised and updated on a regular basis to keep up with changes in legislation or regulation, codes of practice or management processes. Our customers along the supply chain often ask for changes as well to reflect consumer demands and we need to keep in line with changes taking place in other assurance schemes including the Red Tractor, Scottish and Northern Irish beef and lamb schemes. The 2018 update was published back in April and has been implemented from 1st July.

There have been a number of minor upgrades to reflect regulatory and legislative changes over the past three years and the revised standards include the requirements necessary to obtain earned recognition from the Food Standards Agency and the Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use (CRRU). Earned recognition by these two organisations means that Local Authority feed inspections of Welsh Lamb & Beef Producers Ltd's FAWL members have been reduced significantly while FAWL members can purchase all rodenticides without needing to attend a course to become qualified.

The one major change is the need to undertake a review of animal health and welfare with the farm vet. All other assurance schemes for pigs, poultry and the dairy sector have had this requirement in place already and so the beef and lamb sector needs to follow suit. However, the main reason for the change is the problem of antimicrobial resistance. Unless there are steps taken to reduce the threat from antimicrobial resistance to human as well as animal health, the price may very well be paid by the next generation. There is a real possibility that agriculture could have reduced access to the use of a number of very important antibiotics unless we manage to demonstrate responsible usage.

Farming organisations including WLBP have stated on many occasions that there is minimal antibiotic use on beef and sheep farms. The riposte is to ask us to prove it and in these days of evidence-based processes, we have far too little data to back up our argument. However, if we can demonstrate that the sector is actively and seriously tackling the problem of antibiotic resistance by undertaking these vet reviews, then we are far more likely to be able to carry on using these very important medicines. Farmers may also be able to reduce the costs of animal medicines by working with their vets.

While undertaking such a review it seemed eminently sensible for farmers and vet to discuss other issues such as anthelmintic resistance at the same time given the emergence of problems there as well.

We face a period of considerable uncertainty and change: we need to be able to adapt to whatever is to be thrown at us. Many of these issues such as Brexit may be beyond our immediate control. But we can do things about other really important issues such as antimicrobial and anthelmintic resistance. We hope that our members will cooperate with us to ensure that this problem can be overcome for the industry's long-term benefit.

# Importance of Dog and Cat worming to livestock production

Many holdings have cats present for rodent control, and dogs for working the flock or herd. The management of both farm cats and dogs should be considered as important as it can, in fact, have a great effect on livestock health and performance.

Cattle and sheep can be detrimentally affected by numerous different species of parasitic worms, some of which are successful by being hosted by cats and dogs. Most livestock production units invest a large sum of money worming their livestock however, fail to worm farm cats and dogs. Failure to routinely worm cats and dogs present on the farm can affect the productivity of livestock and can even cause carcass rejection at the abattoir (e.g. *C. ovis* or/and *C. tenuicollis*).

The FAWL Standards state that all farm dogs and cats should be wormed routinely, **and records should be kept in the medicine book**. If you need advice on dog or cat worming, consult your vet.

## Tapeworm

Dogs can become infected with tapeworm by ingesting cysts from raw offal or carcasses, which, in time, develop into adult tapeworm within the dogs' digestive tract. The worm eggs are then excreted by the dog and can easily be ingested by livestock on the yard or on pasture. The ingested eggs hatch and migrate in the livestock and can develop into cysts. Tapeworm can cause considerable losses including poor performance, longer finishing times due to loss of appetite in livestock (especially sheep) with moderate to severe infestations and can lead to other health problems due to immuno-suppression. This problem can also lead to Hydatid disease in humans.

## Toxoplasmosis

Toxoplasmosis *gondii* is a parasite which affects sheep. It causes abortion which results in economic losses. It is a zoonoses, meaning that it can affect humans and can cause miscarriage or still birth in women. Infections by Toxoplasmosis will remain as tissue cysts in the brain and muscles of animals, including sheep.

Toxoplasma eggs (oocysts) are produced by cats in their faeces – cats are the definitive host. Sheep can become infected following ingestion of oocysts which have contaminated pastures, concentrate feed or water.

Deworming cats does not have an effect however, there is an effective vaccine to prevent toxoplasmosis in sheep. Nonetheless, it is always advisable that feed stores and water troughs are checked for presence of cat faeces as Toxoplasmosis can pose a risk to humans.

## Organic news

Increase in organic production in 2018: figures recently released by Defra show the number of organic producers in the UK has increased for the first time in several years, there are now 6600 organic operators in the UK.



The majority of these organic operators are livestock and mixed producers with increases seen in organic sheep production (over 5% increase), poultry (8.5% increase) and pigs (nearly double the number of organic pigs).

Organic land has risen by almost 2% since 2017, with 517,000 hectares of land now organic in the UK.

## Non-compliances in 2018

The most common non-compliances that are raised during routine inspections are as follows:

1. No prior approval for purchase of non-organic livestock
  - You must first try to source organic stock
  - If organic stock is not available, prior approval must be sought by completing the derogation application form and returning to the office
  - The maximum annual allowance:  
Sheep 20%  
Cattle 10%  
Derogation applications over these allowances need to be approved by Defra
2. No prior approval for non-organic seed sown
  - Contact the office or check [www.organicxseeds.com](http://www.organicxseeds.com) for availability
  - If the required variety (or suitable alternative) isn't available, you will need to apply for a derogation
  - All seed sown must be untreated
3. No transfer document to accompany the sale of organic livestock
  - A transfer document must accompany the sale of all animals sold as organic
  - Template documents can be found on our website: [www.welshorganic.co.uk](http://www.welshorganic.co.uk) or contact the office to request

We are in the process of updating our Record Sheets and Derogation Forms. Copies of the updated documents can be found on the front page of our website in the Quick Links section. Alternatively contact the certification office and we can email or post you the forms you require, telephone **01970 636688**.

## WLBP – Social Media



Follow us: @WLBProducers



Like us:

Cofnodion Fferm WLBP Farm Records



Instagram

Follow us: WLBProducers