



NEWSLETTER



SPRING 2018

Accurate treatment of sheep scab – FREE TESTING

Examination of samples for sheep ectoparasites is being offered free of charge in Wales, between 15th December and the **31st March 2018**.

The scheme, supported by Welsh Government, will aid accurate diagnosis, which is a prerequisite for appropriate treatment and successful control of ovine ectoparasites. Improved control of sheep scab is a priority of the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework:

<http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/ahw/wales-animal-health-welfare-framework/implementation-plan/?lang=en>

Testing will be undertaken by the newly established specialist parasitology department at APHA Carmarthen VIC, which is also the centre of expertise for disease surveillance of extensively managed livestock.

Samples will be received in the normal way, via a veterinary surgeon and should be posted direct to Carmarthen VIC. They must be accompanied by full clinical history to qualify for free testing. Samples can be submitted on a general submission form found on the Vet Gateway.

If you have any queries, please contact the APHA Carmarthen VIC or your Veterinary practice.



Revisions to the FAWL standard

Revisions have been made to the FAWL standards in order to comply with our commitment to the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) for a tri-annual review. The new standards will become effective on 1st April 2018 but members' farms will not be assessed against them until 1st July 2018. Please find enclosed a detailed breakdown of the changes introduced to reflect for example changes in regulation over time and the need to maintain equivalence with the Red Tractor scheme. For a full copy of the revised standard, please go to the WLBP website on www.wlbp.co.uk.

Welsh Lamb & Beef Producers Ltd

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The annual general meeting of members will be held at Gorseland, North Road, Aberystwyth SY23 2HE on Thursday, 15th March 2018 at 2.00pm.

Yours faithfully, WG Jones, Secretary

AGENDA

- 1.0: To receive minutes of the previous AGM
- 2.0: To receive a report from the chairman, Mr David Bebb Evans
- 3.0: To receive and approve the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2017*
- 4.0: To appoint directors – Messrs David Bebb Evans and Dafydd Jones retire by rotation and are eligible for re-election**
- 5.0: To approve Whittingham Riddell as Reporting Accountants

* Copies of the annual accounts are available on the society's website (www.wlbp.co.uk) or for a hard copy, please contact the office on 01970 636688

** If you wish to make a nomination to the board, please forward the name and address of the member to:
WLBP Ltd, PO Box 8, Gorseland, North Road, Aberystwyth by 14th March 2018 supported by the signatures of 6 other WLBP members.

Chairman's Report –Year Ended 31/3/2017

I present my Chairman Report for the year ended 31 March 2017 as follows:

Our performance for the year was as per our expectations and we continue to maintain a high percentage of Welsh livestock in our scheme. It is particularly pleasing to note that we continue to attract new members to our scheme. WLBP provides the Farm Assurance status to over 7000 Welsh livestock farmers and Welsh dairy farmers who sell beef to the supply chain. WLBP is confident that over 80% of all Welsh livestock is now assured.

During the year WLBP has continued to invest in it's online tools which are available free of charge to all members. An in-house resource is awaiting to assist any members to register for these tools and start using them. Feedback from members who are currently using the facility is extremely positive with many stating that they are a valuable tool for their own farm management. If any member requires information on how to register to these tools please contact the WLBP office in Aberystwyth. The tools provide digital solutions for animal movements, animal health planning, animal medicine recording, and other related farm records.

Another important development during the year has been our success in developing and securing an 'earned recognition' status with regulatory bodies. WLBP has agreed an earned recognition status with the Foods Standards Agency (FSA). This status is valuable to our members as it significantly reduces their exposure to statutory audits from regulatory authorities. We also find that the frequency of audits to non-members will increase due to normal risk management.

A further benefit to our members has been the recognition from Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use (CRRU)

our members are able to use earned recognition and continue to use rodenticides without attending a statutory course delivered by CRRU. I am sure you will agree with me that such arrangements offer significant benefits and value to our members. WLBP will continue to press for such an earned recognition with other regulatory bodies.

Following the Brexit decision and all the uncertainty that the decision has brought to the industry, WLBP is confident that it will continue to provide its members with both marketing advantage in key target markets as well as compliance with an increasing regulatory environment.

During this current year we will be updating our standards to ensure that they continue to give our members the maximum opportunity for market place as well as compliance and hopefully some

exemption through earned recognition from regulation.

WLBP will always ensure that it's standards are relevant and equitable to Welsh farming and will be specifically tailored to recognise the uniqueness the Welsh landscape the topography of Wales and the importance of traditional Welsh family farms and the economy and culture of Wales.

May I wish my fellow members all the very best for the somewhat uncertain future and assure you all that as a produced assured farmer cooperative WLBP will always act in your best interest.



David B Evans

Welsh Lamb and Beef Producers Ltd Summary Financial Accounts, Year Ended 31/03/2017

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

	2017 £	2016 £
Turnover	1,166,792	1,167,371
Cost of Sale	(1,061,292)	(1,082,793)
Gross Profit	65,500	84,578
Administrative Expenses	(81,190)	(66,875)
Operating Profit	24,310	17,703
Other Income	2,285	3,343
Surplus before tax	26,595	21,046
Tax on surplus	(9,902)	(1,593)
Surplus for the year	16,693	19,453

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st MARCH 2017

Fixed Assets	102,010	84,947
Net Current Assets	629,204	619,643
Less Deferred Tax	(11,495)	(1,593)
	719,719	702,997

CAPITAL & REVENUES

Called Up Share Capital	1,860	1,831
Surplus Income & Expenditure	717,859	701,166
	719,719	702,997

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Sheep dipping

From Autumn through to Spring, there is an increase in the cases of scab within flocks. Scab is a disease which can affect business performance due to treatment costs, but it also impacts on welfare, labour costs and the inconvenience of treating the whole flock as it is very contagious. 44% of 432 farms use Dip as a preventative treatment in comparison to 20% which use Dectomax in spray form (Wall, Chivers, Morgan and Rose 2017).

Before using dip:

Whether you choose to use dip in spray form, as a shower or dipping in a static bath or mobile system to treat your sheep on the farm, we would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the appropriate documents required.

Dipping sheep yourself:	Using a sheep dipping contractor:
Do you intend to buy dip or use dip? You must have a Certificate of Competency (Level 2 Award in the Safe Use of Sheep Dip).	Which documents must contractors possess in order to undertake dipping operations? Check that the contractor has a Certificate of Competency (Level 2 Award in the Safe Use of Sheep Dip) and make a note of the certificate number.
Do you intend to dispose of dip on your land, e.g. through landscaping? You must have an environmental permit.	Do you intend to dispose of the contractor's dip on your land, e.g. through landscaping? You must apply for an environmental permit.
Do you intend to dispose of dip offsite? Use a registered waste disposal carrier. You are responsible for ensuring that they are licenced and have a valid licence, and you should receive a waste transfer note.	Does the contractor intend to dispose of dip offsite? Ask: a) where will they dispose of the dip b) whether the contractor has an environmental permit – make a note of the permit number c) whether the contractor has a waste carrying permit, and ask for a waste transfer note.

After dipping:

Dipping normally occurs once a year, but the dipping bath is part of the sheep operating system on many farms and so it's essential to ensure that it is covered when not in use. In order to comply with the Governmental code in protecting groundwater: the advice provided with regard to sheep dip is to 'cover the bath to prevent rainwater, people or animals from entering when not in use'. An uncovered dipping bath can pose a great risk to people and animals, and therefore I would like to remind you to comply with the Governmental code in order to ensure safety for all.

Carbon Foot printing and Gross Margin Tool

In collaboration with ADAS, WLBP are currently working with producers 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 farms 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 the future uncertainties.

The wider aim of this project is to provide evidence of the changing farm practices and their impact. It will also be a consideration in defining the potential for brand values and their role in underpinning the marketing of Welsh agricultural produce.

Current participants will be given feedback on data collected for each enterprise type in Wales.

Welsh farmers participating in this study will be contributing to the evidence required to shape the future post Brexit.

Llŷr Lewis: Farm Records and Standards Co-ordinator



Since January a new member of staff has joined WLBP as a Farm Records and Standards Co-ordinator.

Llŷr Lewis from Ponterwyd, Aberystwyth has been appointed to the role and he is responsible for promoting and supporting the users of Farm Records on a full time basis. He is based at the office in Aberystwyth.

Llŷr is available to come and talk about the Farm Records facility to discussion groups, Grassland society's etc. if required.

His contact details are:

07741 549270

01970 636688

LlŷrL@wlbpc.co.uk

Beef and Sheep unit utilises WLBP Farm Records



Sion and Ceinwen Williams farm in partnership with Sion's parents Alwyn and Lowri Williams at Cappel, Cwmpenanner, Cerrig y Drudion. They run a beef and sheep enterprise on their upland farm which ranges from 1000ft on the yard to 1500ft on the mountain.

The sheep flock consists of 800 Talybont Welsh ewes that are mainly crossed with Aberdale rams. Over the last 2 years they have used Romney rams on some of their ewes.

The lambs are mainly finished on a grass-fed system, while also utilising some land for Plantain. Most of the lambs are sold locally to a local abattoir while some of the Aberdale X ewe lambs are sold privately.

The beef enterprise consists of 145 suckler cows which include pedigree Stabiliser cattle which are bred and sold as pedigree breeding cattle. The calves are fed on a feed blend and are weighed every 3–4 weeks to monitor their daily live weight gain. Their breeding stock is highly regarded within Pedigree Stabiliser circles.

Since January 2016 the Williams family have taken advantage of the online WLBP Farm Records facility available free to them as FAWL members. Following registering and creating an online account, their FAWL and cross compliance documentation are populated and kept online. These include their flock book, herd register and medicine book.

All four of the family members have the Stock Move Express app on their phones, which is linked directly to the WLBP Farm Records account. This allows them to input records at any time and at any location.

"The app is a very useful tool. The phone is with me when I'm out on the farm, and it allows me to keep up to date with things as it happens. I would normally forget things by the evening. By

completing paperwork as we go we keep on top of things. It's easy to use, if I can use it anybody can!" Alwyn stated.

Sion uses the app to monitor the weight performance of the calves every month.

"I use the Shearwell EID stick reader which links directly to Stock Move Express app. This is a very useful management tool as I can monitor the performance by recording weights and assessing daily liveweight gains. This allows me to adjust the feeding rations of the calves accordingly."

Sion also highlights the benefits of recording medicine purchases and treatments:

'I input the medicine as soon as we buy it and record the treatment when we treat animals. It saves time and keeps our records up to date.'

Their WLBP Farm Records account is linked to BCMS and EID Cymru. This allows them to complete their movement, births (etc) requirements through the online account or the app.

Lowri Williams has noticed that the simplicity of the system allows more than one member of the business to contribute to the record keeping:

"It's great to have a one stop service where you can connect to BCMS and EID Cymru, and the movements are automatically inputted into the Herd Register and Flock Book."

The WLBP facility has helped us to simplify record keeping where all the family has a role to play. Ceinwen does the performance recording, I register cattle to BCMS and Alwyn and Sion do the sheep and weighing of the calves. It gives us the freedom to concentrate on the business rather than paperwork"

Within the business at Cappel, WLBP Farm Records has provided a huge benefit as a record keeping and performance recording tool. All involved within the business are looking forward in continuing to take advantage of the facility that is available to them through their membership of FAWL.

For further information regarding the WLBP Farm Records facility please contact our Co-ordinators:

**Llyr Lewis: 07741 549270, LlyrL@wlbp.co.uk
Sion Ifans: sionifans@wlbp.co.uk**

