# Welsh Lamb & Beef Producers

# VET NEWSLETTER

**JULY 2022**

**FAWL STANDARDS ARE LIVE - FARMERS IN WALES WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE FAWL SCHEME WILL NEED THEIR VET TO COMPLETE THE AMU CALCULATION ON THE WLBP PLATFORM ALONGSIDE THE ANNUAL HEALTH & WELFARE REVIEW.**

## FAWL Standards

An annual livestock health & welfare review must be undertaken with the farm vet. The vet will be expected to review:

(1) regularly occurring problems and key issues, making recommendations to improve identified issues

(2) medicine records and data, including anthelmintic use, flukicide use, total antibiotic prescribed & utilised making recommendations for responsible reduction of medicine used, where appropriate

(3) the use of antibiotics, including the Highest Priority Critically Important Antibiotics (HP-CIAs) (if any), **estimating average use as mg/kg (as per industry standard parameters) using WLBP's Farm Records website to calculate and record the outcome.**

(4) prophylactic treatment and make recommendations for alternative disease prevention strategies

(5) biosecurity

## WLBP AMU Calculator in Practice


" At Hafren Vets we have been working with our beef and sheep clients, to reduce our reliance on antibiotics, for the last few years. Our clients have made huge amounts of progress by focusing on preventative medicine and environmental factors.

It has been really inspiring to witness how proud our clients are when they tell us at their annual FAWL medicines review how much they have reduced their reliance on antibiotics.

WLBP's AMU calculator has been a really useful tool to help us and our clients to take the next steps. It has also enabled us to quantify all the hard work our clients have put in so far. Contrary to this it has also highlighted those farms where there is still a lot of work that can be done. The report is simple to produce and is easy to understand and talk through with our clients.

We are looking forward to continuing use the calculator to assist our clients and to demonstrate the responsible use of antibiotics in the Red Meat Sector in Wales"

**Dr. George Roberts MRCVS, BVMedSci (Hons), BVM BVS (Hons) - Hafren Veterinary Group Ltd**

# Farm Assured Welsh Livestock
# Annual Health and Welfare Review Form

| | |
|---|---|
| **WLBP Member Name** | [redacted] |
| **Farm Address** | [redacted] |
| **Post Code** | [redacted] |
| **FAWL Membership No** | [redacted] |
| **Vet Name** | [redacted] |
| **Vet Practice** | [redacted] |

**If more than one practice is retained by the farm, the review must include all medicines prescribed/used**

| | |
|---|---|
| **From a review of the farm health plan and medicine records, is there any evidence of regularly occurring animal health problems?** | YES ☑ NO ☐ |

**If 'Yes' please note below and explain steps being taken to rectify incidence of listed problems in future**

**Problems / Observations**

SHEEP LAMENESS : still a significant problem. From our discussion I feel that Footrot is the main cause rather than CODD. FOOTVAX could prove very useful- it has a role in treatment as well as prevention.
You tend to use Zactran for lame ewes - very effective and rarely have to treat twice. You are going to try Provita as footbath solution- worth having a water footbath before the medicated one to make it more effective for longer. Footbathing is an aid to control rather than treatment.
FOOTROT and CODD are INFECTIOUS INFECTIONS and the biggest source of infection is another infected sheep- take this into account when trying to sort the problem.

- Best time for a campaign against lameness is after weaning. When you sort through the ewes, check all feet individually; mark, treat and put separate all infected sheep and don't allow to rejoin main flock until well cured.

- CULL any sheep you treat more than once in a year, (they are a major source of infection and their lambs are more likely to be prone to lameness). Culling, though harsh, is very effective in the long run!

- TREAT PROMPTLY : Alamycin is OK for Footrot but not CODD; Betamox and Penstrep are good for Footrot and about 70 % effective for CODD especially if repeated 3 days later; Zactran is very effective for both conditions but expensive. Topical Lincospectin spray is helpful (or Engemycin spray for Footrot and scald). Trimming infected feet isn't recommended and has been shown to slow down cure rates.

- Have a separate LAME PEN in the lambing shed.

- FOOTBATHING has a role for prevention especially scald in lambs but only if sheep can stand to dry on clean ground afterwards; a water footbath to wash feet before the medicated one is useful; formalin is inactivated when dirty. Use a maximum concentration of 3% (that is 300ml of 40% Formaldehyde in 10 litres of water). Any stronger causes damage and makes their feet sore

- FOOTVAX vaccine has a useful role also. See leaflet. Use can be tailored according to the amount of infection and main problem time in a flock eg given prior to problem time or regularly once or twice a year.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Please confirm that up-to-date farm medicine records have been reviewed including total antibiotic prescribed & utilised.** | YES ☑ NO ☐ |

**If 'No', please explain why not below**

**If antibiotics have been used, please suggest recommendations on how they could be responsibly reduced without negatively impacting on animal welfare below**

**Recommendations**

TOTAL ANTIBIOTIC USE 1/1/2021-1/1/2022

CATTLE : About [redacted] beef sucklers - 411,900 mg antibiotic, used for 2 caesarians, lameness, mastitis . Average of 430,800 mg antibiotic at previous 2 reviews.

SHEEP : About [redacted] breeding ewes - 654,000 mg antibiotic largely used for lameness and lambing time. Average of 658,250 mg antibiotic at previous 2 reviews.
Antibiotic included
TRYMOX/BETAMOX - 8 bottles
ZACTRAN - 400ml
ALAMYCIN - 5 bottles
LINCOSPECTIN - 1 tub (for handsprayer)

**If HP CIAs (3rd & 4th generation cephalosporin's, fluoroquinolones and colistin) have been used, please propose recommendations to reduce or remove their usage in the future. It is good practice to have demonstrable evidence diagnostic/sensitivity tests if they have been used.**

**Recommendations**

CIAs (Critically Important Antibiotics) including Fluroquinalones; NONE USED IN PAST 12 MONTHS. These will only be prescribed after examination by and on clinical decision by vet.

**The constant use of antibiotics (prophylactic) on a significant scale is no longer considered acceptable practice. If such antibiotic use is being practised, can plans made to reduce usage where possible? Please propose recommendations for alternative strategies below.**

**Recommendations**

No significant prophylactic antibiotic use at [redacted]

Antibiotics for lambs at birth?- Good understanding of and attention to colostrum intake and hygiene in the lambing shed. You tend to wait for a problem to arise before antibiotic use. Not much watery mouth seen; some joint ill ( eg about 10 cases last year). Joint ill is best treated asap with antibiotic (eg penicillin,pharmasin, daily penstrep or synulox) with an antiinflammatory given on the first day eg colvasone. You typically see joint ill in older lambs (3 weeks) rather than the more usual 5-10 days so it could be worth taking a swab from a typical case to see what bug is involved.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Is there a risk of developing anthelmintic resistance from unnecessary or incorrect use of anthelmintics?** | YES ☐ NO ☑ |

**If applicable, please propose a worm control plan that could reduce the risk of developing anthelmintic resistance and reduce the unnecessary or incorrect use of anthelmintics**

**Recommendations**

WORMS
CATTLE : All cattle wormed during housing period with a pour-on product ( to help lice control too). The older cows shouldn't need worming but from a lice point of view, I would continue to do everything and ideally at about the same time. Young stock are the main ones to benefit from worming especially as there is no routine worming during the grazing period. Monitor the need for this and if you do worm grazing cattle- try and use a yellow -group 2 wormer as they don't kill the dung beetles!

SHEEP:
LAMBS: For timing of first drench - particularly targetting Nematodirus- look at the SCOPS website for a local forecast. Then worm lambs as needed from June-Dec taking into account the weather, how they are looking, the likely worm level of the places they have been grazing and worm egg counts are useful also. Unless you have checked to see if they are effective avoid white wormers apart from for Nematodirus as white drench resistance is widespread and common. Use yellow/clear drenches. Use Zolvix / Startect once late summer when you know lambs need worming. These are groups you may not have used at all, so very effective and will do a good job and help slow resistance developing to the other wormers. Spot drenching, targeting the ones that look as if they need it rather than the whole group can be a good approach too. To discourage wormer resistance developing - avoid dosing a group and moving them straight onto clean grazing; either leave 10% untreated or leave the lambs on the original field for 3 days before moving. It means you won't just be taking resistant worms to the new field but will have some susceptible ones to dilute the dominance of the resistant ones.

ADULTS : Having ewes in good body condition helps them control their worm levels
BETWEEN WEANING AND PRE-TUPPING only consider worming rams, yearlings and any poorer ewes. Fit ewes will have good immunity to worms at this time of the year. You shouldn't need to worm everything- buy separate fluke and worm products (yellow/clear wormer)
LAMBING TIME : This is the most useful time to worm ewes as many will lose their immunity to worms for the period 6 weeks before to 6 weeks after lambing and so can contaminate the pasture with a lot of worm eggs although as in the autumn if ewes are in good body condition and have maintained good condition during the build up to lambing they won't lose their immunity and have minimal worms. Therefore, you could leave a portion unwormed and concentrate on the yearlings, poorer ewes and those with multiples. The reason not to dose all ewes as a matter of course is to try and slow down the development of wormer resistance for the future. Worming the ewes as they leave the lambing shed is ideal (yellow/clear wormer)

If you INJECT for scab – you will be giving a worm dose also-take this into account.

At [redacted] you routinely fluke and worm everything pretupping and in January- I don't think they all need worming especially pretupping and I think January is a bit early for best effect in the spring.

**If there is evidence of a fluke problem, please suggest a fluke control plan that can reduce the risk of development of resistance and where applicable reduce unnecessary or incorrect use of flukicides.**

**Recommendations**

FLUKE
CATTLE: All routinely dosed for fluke during the winter including any overwintering youngstock. You tend to use Triclabendazole so it can be given as soon as you like after housing as it should be effective against all stages of fluke.

SHEEP: Breeding flock routinely dosed for fluke twice a year pretupping and in January. Because resistance can develop to Triclabendazole try not to use it every time - use other products when appropriate.
PRETUPPING - Triclabendazole(TBZ) eg Tribex
NEW YEAR - NOT TBZ - use CLOSANTEL instead eg Flukiver as from New Year minimal new fluke infections will be picked up so any fluke in the sheep should be susceptible to Closantel.
Dose ewe lamb replacements as for adults and try and graze fattening lambs away from flukey ground.

If in response to abattoir reports of fluke in fat lambs you decide to treat fattening lambs for fluke, Levafas diamond could be a useful choice as it has a short withdrawal but unlike Albex it is more likely to be an effective wormer at this time of the year. You appreciate that adult fulkicides aren't the best choice at this time of the year but drug withdrawal times have to be taken into account too.

**Since a biosecurity plan needs be in place, please review quarantine procedures taken when purchasing/returning livestock to the holding/s to assess if appropriate. If procedures are appropriate, please comment below on how they meet your approval. If not appropriate or absent, please make recommendations to reduce the risk of disease and resistant organisms entering or developing on the farm.**

**Recommendations**

BIOSECURITY-keeping your stock safe from other farms' diseases. Keep up the boot disinfection tub for all visitors ON ARRIVAL!

CATTLE
RISK AREAS:
NEIGHBOURING CATTLE: None? Risk of BVD and TB. Avoid nose to nose contact with neighbouring cattle by double fencing or equivalent, or just not grazing a field when there are cattle next door

BADGERS: Look at the TB HUB website on the computer for interesting information and how to reduce the risk of contact between cattle and infected badgers

BUYING IN: Replacements bought in as bucket calves sourced from dairy farms -risk of BVD, Johnes and nasty calf scours (and to a lesser extent TB).
BVD: Your herd isn't vaccinated for BVD so is vulnerable to BVD. Vaccinating the breeding herd is a good insurance policy. If you don't vaccinate it is a 'no brainer' to check ALL INCOMING cattle for BVD virus and keep separate for 4 weeks and until negative result is back. 'TAG an TEST' is the easiest way - buy tag and test management tags from your tag supplier for use in incoming cattle. If you buy a bull, make sure he is tested and vaccinated before arrival especially if coming via a market, even if you don't intend to continue with the vaccination. Don't just rely on buying from a 'gold certificate herd'
TB: Avoid high risk areas and farms. Farms that haven't had TB for at least 10 years are lowest risk. Premovement testing isn't fool proof. Baby calves are the least risk for TB
LUNGWORM: Any animals that have been out grazing, worm on arrival and house for 48 hours.
JOHNES' DISEASE: Cattle become infected with Johnes on their farm of origin and especially via an infected mother. Level 1 Johnes accredited herds are least risk. At least ask the vendor about Johnes on their farm. Dairy farms are much more likely to be monitoring for Johnes these days.
BABY CALVES: Nasty scours like Rotavirus and Cryptosporidia. Rear in batches and thoroughly clean and disinfect pen afterwards and don't use it for your own calves.

SHEEP
RISK AREAS:
NEIGHBOURS AND STRAY SHEEP- Risk of scab. Secure fencing and double fence against problem neighbours; though birds can carry infected wool over any fence.
HILL GRAZING - Used for dry ewes and ewe lambs. Risk of scab ( well controlled by annual dipping), Footrot/CODD (check all lame sheep on return) and enzootic abortion. Yearlings are vaccinated for enzootic abortion - make sure they are vaccinated before going to the hill.

NO TACK GRAZING USED

BUYING IN - Home bred replacements- tups bought in.
You can't tell by looking if a bought in sheep is carrying resistant worms, TBZ resistant fluke or early scab, so assume it is…
'Gold Standard' Quarantine Advice :
On arrival dose for worms with ZOLVIX/STARTECT, inject with DECTOMAX (worms and scab) and house for 48 hours; Dose for fluke with TRICLABENDAZOLE/CLOSANTEL and repeat with CLOSANTEL in 6 weeks, in between times keep on non flukey pasture.
Turn up to check feet and treat if needed. Keep separate for as long as practical, watching for lameness and sore eyes (conjunctivitis) especially.
We can supply Zolvix and Dectomax in small quantities if needed.
Other diseases you can buy in include JOHNES, MAEDI VISNA (MV), OPA, BORDER DISEASE (BD)…BUYER BEWARE!! You could blood sample on arrival for MV and BD and less reliably for Johnes in sheep.

DOGS: Dogs wormed every 6 weeks with a product containing praziquantel (eg Droncit, Milprazon) will not cause tape worm cyst problems in sheep. Prevent dogs (and foxes) from scavenging sheep carcases and cow cleanse also.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Date of Review** | [redacted] |
| **Vet Declaration** | [redacted] |
| **Farmer Acceptance** | [redacted] |

# Annual Health & Welfare Review

## GOOD EXAMPLE ✓

**Here is an example of an excellent review - all sections completed in detail.**

**The AMU Calculation needs to be attached to the Annual Health & Welfare Review online. It shows how to do this on the final page of this newsletter.**

# Annual Health & Welfare Review

## BAD EXAMPLE

**Here is an example of a bad review where some sections have not been attempted and little detail has been given. This review has also been completed by hand and not on the WLBP Vet Portal.**

**Farm Assured Welsh Livestock – Health & welfare review form**
(To be completed by farm vet annually)

| | |
|---|---|
| WLBP Member Name: | |
| *Farm Address:* | |
| | Post Code: |
| FAWL Membership No: | |
| Vet Name: | |
| Vet Practice: | |

If more than one practice is retained by the farm, the review must include all medicines prescribed/used

| | |
|---|---|
| From a review of the farm health plan and medicine records, is there any evidence of regularly occurring animal health problems? | YES/NO |

If 'YES' please note below and explain steps being taken to rectify incidence of listed problems in future

Problems/Observations

NO OBSERVATIONS

| | |
|---|---|
| Please confirm that up-to-date farm medicine records have been reviewed including total antibiotic prescribed & utilised. | YES/NO |

If 'NO', please explain why not below

N/A

If antibiotics have been used, please suggest recommendations on how they could be responsibly reduced without negatively impacting on animal welfare.

Recommendations:

NONE USED LAST YEAR.

If HP CIAs (3rd & 4th generation cephalosporin's, fluoroquinolones and colistin) have been used, please propose recommendations to reduce or remove their usage in the future. It is good practice to have demonstrable evidence diagnostic/sensitivity tests if they have been used.

Recommendations:

NONE USED

The constant use of antibiotics (prophylactic) on a significant scale is no longer considered acceptable practice. If such antibiotic use is being practised, can plans made to reduce usage where possible? Please propose recommendations for alternative strategies below.

Recommendations:

NO RECOMMENDATIONS

| | |
|---|---|
| Is there a risk of developing anthelmintic resistance from unnecessary or incorrect use of anthelminthics? | YES/NO |

If applicable, please propose a worm control plan that could reduce the risk of developing anthelmintic resistance and reduce the unnecessary or incorrect use of anthelminthics

Recommendations:

GOOD CONTROL CURRENTLY

If there is evidence of a fluke problem, please suggest a fluke control plan that can reduce the risk of development of resistance and where applicable reduce unnecessary or incorrect use of flukicides.

Recommendations:

NO RECOMMENDATIONS

Since a biosecurity plan needs be in place, please review quarantine procedures taken when purchasing/returning livestock to the holding/s to assess if appropriate. If procedures are appropriate, please comment below on how they meet your approval. If not appropriate or absent, please make recommendations to reduce the risk of disease and resistant organisms entering or developing on the farm.

Recommendations:

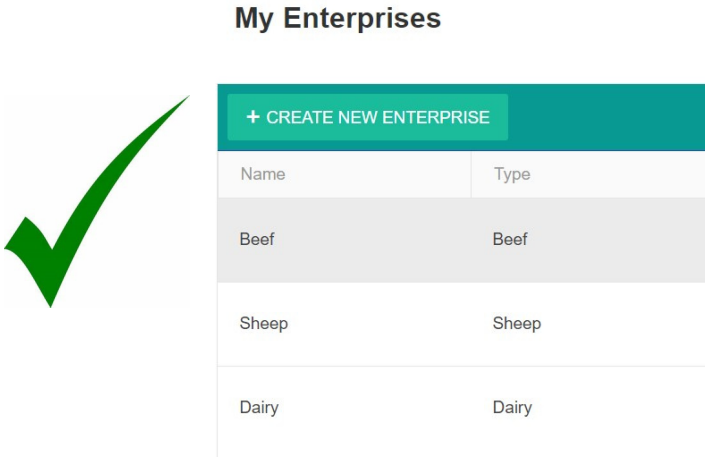
NO RECOMMENDATIONS

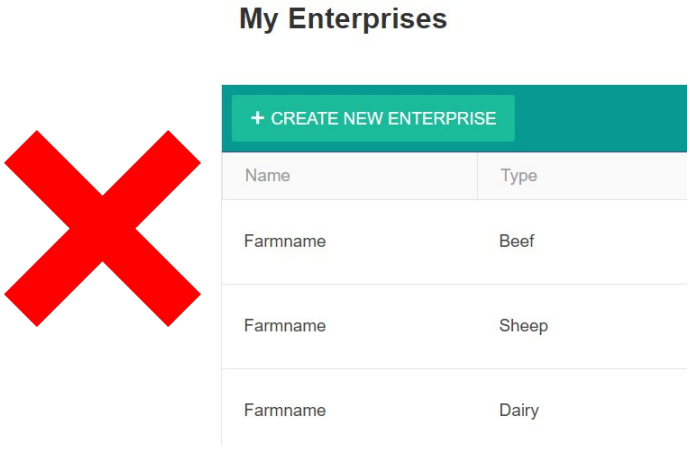
| | |
|---|---|
| Vet Signature: | |
| Farmer Signature: | |
| Date: | |

# AMU Calculator TOP TIPS

## Naming Enterprises:

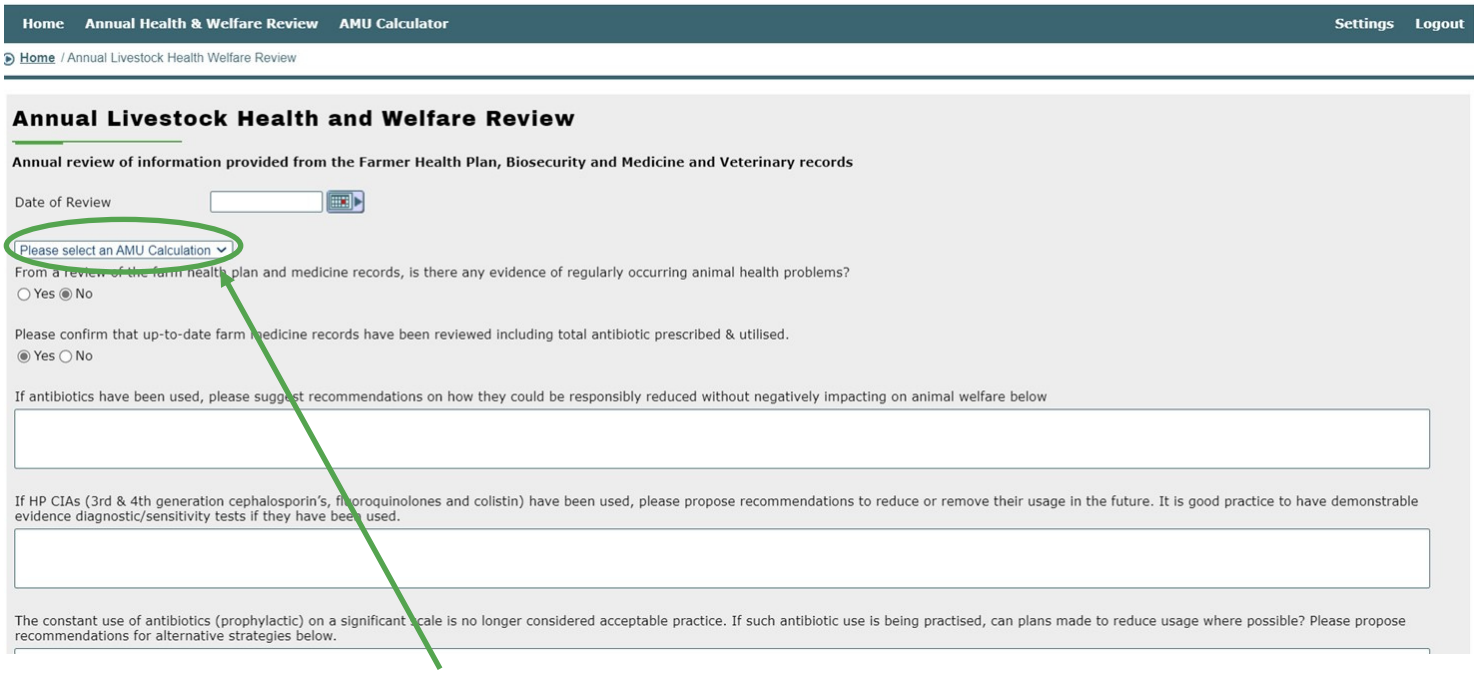
**REMEMBER -** The AMU Calculator is not just for Welsh Beef & Sheep farms—if there is a Dairy enterprise then a calculation must be completed using the dairy metrics —the calculator is able to do this as it can complete the measurement for sheep, beef and dairy. The majority of Red Tractor Assured Dairy farms in Wales are members of FAWL. Every dairy farmer in Wales who is a member of Red Tractor Dairy Assurance needs FAWL membership i.e. to sell cull cows.




It is important that you name the enterprise by the enterprise type and not the farm name. When you click on the farm in the WLBP vet portal it will associate this report to the farm without further identification here. Naming all enterprises by farm name will lead to confusion at the later stage of the calculation when assigning the sub accounts to import the antibiotics. Therefore always name the enterprise with the type as shown the correct example above.

## Attaching the AMU Calculation to the Annual Health & Welfare Review:




It is essential that the AMU calculation is attached to the Annual Health & Welfare Review, this can be done when submitting the review online— you can do this by clicking on 'Please select an AMU Calculation'. The calculation will then be attached to the review for the client to see for themselves.

# CONTACT DETAILS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