



WELSH LAMB & BEEF PRODUCERS LTD

NEWSletter

WINTER 2024



Welsh Lamb and Beef Producers lead the way in antibiotic tracking

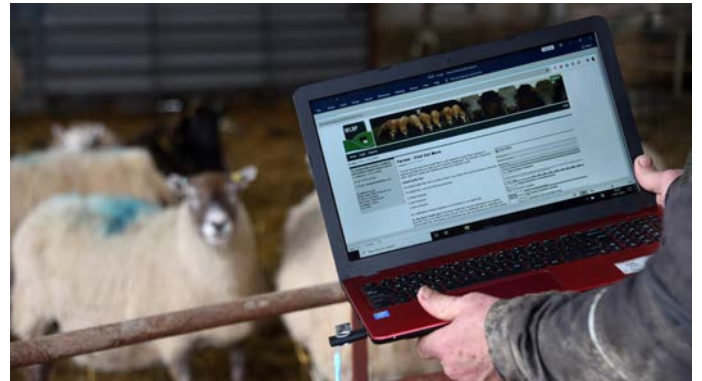
Welsh Lamb & Beef Producers Ltd (WLBP) are at the forefront of efforts to tackle the global problem of antibiotic resistance by leading the way in tracking the use of antibiotics in livestock.

WLBP members have been working with their veterinary surgeons to calculate the average amount of antibiotics used on beef, sheep, and dairy farms in Wales using the WLBP Antimicrobial Calculator.

Measuring antibiotic use on farms is a part of the WLBP Farm Assured Welsh Livestock Scheme (FAWL) and annual AMU reports are produced – with the 2022 WLBP AMU Report now available on the WLBP website. The 2023 WLBP AMU Report will be available in February 2025.

The outcome from the calculator allows farmers to effectively measure their antibiotic usage and if needed work with their vet to improve animal health. Supply chains are increasingly asking their farmers to supply antibiotic usage data. Under strict data permissions the calculator allows farmers to share this data with their chosen supply chain. This reduces duplication and makes the process of sharing permitted data a lot easier.

WLBP General Manager Iestyn Tudur-Jones said, “WLBP has always worked closely with farmers and the supply chain when developing FAWL standards or asking members to participate in a new initiative. This bottom-up approach works far better than imposing extra regulation without consultation. To validate claims that Welsh livestock producers were using antibiotics



responsibly, WLBP cooperated with vets, farmers, and software developers to develop a system of measuring antibiotic usage that produces accurate and valid outcomes.”

Antibiotic sales data are captured and collated via the specially designed WLBP AMU Calculator. This novel reporting tool produces standardised antimicrobial usage (AMU) reports based on industry-agreed metrics. The results are expressed as milligrams of antibiotic used per kilogram of animal, a measurement accepted by government and supply chain stakeholders.

Welsh farmers have embraced this voluntary approach, which has resulted in what is believed to be the largest independent data set of its kind in the UK.

A full copy of the WLBP AMU Report 2022 can be found at: <https://www.wlbp.co.uk/wlbp-annual-amu-reports/2022>



A message from a practicing vet regarding BVD Legislation in Wales

Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) legislation implementation in Wales and the eradication of the disease will be a journey for the farmers and vets alike, it is vital that farmers and their vets are brought along and commit to this process.

The Cornerstone of BVD eradication at herd or national level is the identification and removal of persistently infected (PI) animals at the earliest opportunity. The annual check test carried out on youngstock via the BVD Cymru screen, is designed to pick up the presence of PI animals in a herd spreading BVD infection.

As part of an ongoing process an interim Governance board which includes WLBP, the farming unions, veterinary delivery partners and working farmers has been set up for BVD Cymru together with an interim Technical Advisory Group (TAG) group. The role of the TAG group is to address issues of implementation of the BVD legislation on a practical level. Much of the work will be based on the queries raised by practitioners and farmers.

It is anticipated that much of the blood testing work will be undertaken at the Wales Veterinary Science Centre (WVSC) in Aberystwyth. Many farms have already been screened since BVD Cymru launched.

With a deadline of July 1st 2025, before additional legislative measures are brought in, it is vital that any guidance/advice that BVD Cymru produces for farmers and vets is sound and practically workable at farm level. Inevitably given the nature of the legislative framework as determined by Welsh government there remain many challenging issues in terms of practical implementation that need addressing.

Ultimately of course as an industry we must not lose sight of the ultimate goal which is the eradication of BVD in Wales.

Visit the Welsh Government website for further information: <https://www.gov.wales/welsh-bovine-viral-diarrhoea-eradication-scheme-guidance.html>

Gareth Mulligan MRCVS
Vet in practice (Afon Vets, South Wales)
Co member of Iechyd da BVD team
Member of Interim BVD Cymru TAG group

CORRESPONDING VIA EMAILS

Over the last few years WLBP have been communicating via email as an efficient way of sharing important information with our members. As we continue to send invoices and correspondence via emails, please add us to your 'safe list'. We also welcome information via text and WhatsApp messages

Email: info@fawl.co.uk
Text / WhatsApp: 07389 707016.



FAWL Members are Exempt from the Veterinary Attestation Number (VAN)

You can use membership of the Farm Assured Welsh Livestock (FAWL) scheme as evidence to meet export requirements under the EU Animal Health Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2016/429).

The new EU regulation came into force on 13th December 2023. This means that any farms producing animals or products of animal origin or germinal products for export to the EU (or movements to Northern Ireland under the conditions of the Northern Ireland Protocol) must be subject to 'regular' veterinary visits.

Farmers only need to comply with this requirement if they provide relevant animals or products for export to the EU or movements to Northern Ireland.

WLBP are glad to confirm that being part of the FAWL scheme gives members the ability to comply with this new requirement as the scheme qualifies as a recognised assurance scheme. Therefore, no Veterinary Attestation Number (VAN) is required.

Anyone falling outside the category of being part of a recognised assurance scheme must use the available time to either exclude their animals or products from EU export, join a recognised farm assurance scheme or obtain an appropriate veterinary declaration – VAN Number.

WLBP – Social Media



@WLBProducers



Welsh Lamb and Beef Producers
Cynhyrchwyr Cig Oen Ac Eidion Cymru



Instagram

WLBProducers

Your details count

Over the last 12 months, our FAWL web checker was visited over 226,000 times. The checker is mainly used by livestock markets, abattoirs, collection centres, livestock buyers, agricultural merchants and local authorities.

These businesses use the web checker to confirm current / live assurance status of FAWL members. These checks are crucial if they are purchasing Farm Assured Welsh livestock or identifying members who benefit from the earned recognition with the agencies

such as FSA Wales (Food Standard Agency) for feed recognition. This means that there are less local authority inspections for FAWL members.

It is important that we have your correct details. If there are any changes or additions in your farm details i.e. CPH number, additional holdings or trading name, address please let us know, as this may affect your ability to sell stock as assured.

Please contact us: 01970 636688 or email info@fawl.co.uk

The Annual General Meeting of Welsh Lamb and Beef Producers Ltd will be held virtually (by TEAMS) on December the 12th 2024, Thursday at 2.00pm to consider the following Agenda:

1. Apologies for absence
2. Receive and if thought fit, to adopt the annual financial accounts and report for the year ended 31.03.2024 (extracts from the accounts as below).
3. Appoint Directors – David Bebb Evans and Dafydd Jones retire by rotation and offer themselves for re-election. (Nomination form for prospective directors can be found by clicking on the digital link or contact the office as below to request a hard copy).
4. Appoint reporting accountants – WR Partners, accountants offer themselves for re-election.
5. Any other business

Alice James
Company Secretary
November 18th, 2024

Please note if you wish to attend the AGM virtually by TEAMS, please request the appropriate link by e-mailing info@wlbp.co.uk. If you require a full copy of the financial accounts for the year ended 31.03.2024 please to so by e-mailing info@wlbp.co.uk.

<https://shorturl.at/DhZSs>

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (£000s)

	2024	2023
Turnover	2234	1758
Cost of Sales	-2084	-1574
Gross Profit	150	184
Administrative Costs	-140	-164
Interest Receivable	24	0
Taxation	-20	-13
Profit for the Year	14	7

BALANCE SHEET (£000s)

	2024	2023
Fixed Assets	31	36
Current Assets		
Cash at Bank	1420	1640
Debtors	242	198
	1662	1838
Creditors	-929	-1124
Net Current Assets	733	714
	764	750

CAPITAL & RESERVES

Share Capital	2	2
Reserves	762	748
	764	750



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Attention Sheep Keepers: Welsh Government change of date to the Annual Inventory

Just a reminder that the Welsh Government has changed the date of the Annual Inventory to the 1st December – the Farm Assured Welsh Livestock Scheme Standard has been updated to include this change as follows:

Record	Key	Standard	Description	Reference
Sheep Flock Record	1d	S	An on-farm flock register must be kept as required by current applicable legislation. An inventory of sheep on holdings as at the 1st December must be made each year. All details of identifications, deaths and movements must be recorded: Identification – Within 36 hours of identification of the lamb (as in 1c above) Deaths – Within 36 hours of the discovery of the death. The record must include method of disposal of carcass and relevant identification details. Movements – Within 36 hours and a report to EID Cymru of the movement (if via a Central Point of Recording, 48 hours is permitted for the entry of tag details) details must include date, number and identity of sheep, source and destination.	Refer to the WG publication – Guidance for Keepers – Rules for Identifying Sheep & Goats – Section 4 (See above for link) It is recommended to use WLBP's online movement records package, a suitable record book such as the WG Sheep and Goat Record Book or EID Cymru's online service

WLBP take part in UK Farm Assurance Review

Background

Earlier this year an independent review was jointly commissioned by the National Farmers' Union (NFU) and AHDB, along with NFU Cymru, The Ulster Farmers' Union (UFU) and NFU Scotland (NFUS), to form part of the Assurance Review leadership group, which has overall responsibility for its delivery.

The industry-wide UK Assurance Review has focused on repurposing assurance in a post-Brexit world.

It aimed to seek feedback from all farmers, crofters and growers about all farm assurance schemes with a view to revolutionising farm to fork assurance, making it truly fit for the future.

The review has considered

- How farm assurance can deliver value back to scheme members
- How standards are developed to meet the evolving needs of members, the markets they serve, sector diversity and in appreciation of the global marketplace
- How assurance members are engaged with (including the development of standards), inspected and how technology is used in assurance now and in future
- How assurance schemes can and should fit with regulation and government schemes to best serve members

Commissioners

The group appointed four commissioners who are responsible for setting the terms of reference and a timeline to ensure the process provides clear outcomes to the industry. The commissioners appointed to undertake the review were:

- Dr David Llewellyn CBE (lead commissioner) – former Vice Chancellor of Harper Adams University
- James Withers – former Chief Executive Officer of Scotland Food and Drink
- Mark Suthern – Chairman of Trustees of the Farming Community Network (FCN)
- Katrina Williams – former Civil Servant in Policy making and shaping and implementation of legislation

The commission has reinforced the need for good industry engagement as


well as transparency throughout the process. The commissioners have conducted their review by face-to-face engagement at key industry events, a survey and a consultation process.

The commissioners have been supported by Promar International and Supply Chain InSites (SCI) within the review, ensuring transparency and independence.

The review included the following processes:

- Snapshot of UK Farm Assurance Standards
- Articulate Sector Needs
- Call for the Views from Farmers
- Call for Views from the Supply Chain

The Commissioners will provide their feedback and recommendations at the end of 2024.




Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Bluetongue Know the signs


Bluetongue serotype 3 (BTV-3) is circulating on the eastern side of England. The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) and Defra have declared bluetongue zones spanning several counties to help control further spread of the disease. You can find out more and check whether you are in a bluetongue zone by visiting www.gov.wales/bluetongue.

Bluetongue is a notifiable disease and must be reported by law. You are not permitted to move any animal showing these clinical signs and if you see any of these signs you must report it to APHA.


Clinical signs to look out for in cattle • lethargy • crusting and erosions around the nostrils and muzzle • conjunctivitis and excessive tear staining • redness of the mouth, eyes, nose • reddening of the skin above the hoof and between the cleats • nasal discharge • reddening and erosions on the teats • fever • milk drop • not eating • abortion, foetal deformities and stillbirths
Adult cattle may be infectious for several weeks while showing little or no sign of disease. They are often the preferred host for biting midges (the vector of bluetongue virus).



Clinical signs to look out for in sheep • ulcers or sores in the mouth and nose • discharge from the eyes or nose and drooling from the mouth • swelling of the lips, tongue, head and neck • heat and tenderness at the coronary band (where the skin of the leg meets the horn of the foot) Other clinical signs include: • inappetence and weight loss • red skin as a result of blood collecting beneath the surface • fever • lameness and reluctance to move • breathing problems • abortion, foetal deformities and stillbirths • death



Clinical signs in calves and lambs Calves and lambs can become infected with bluetongue virus before birth if the mother is infected while pregnant. Signs of infection include: • calves / lambs born small, weak, deformed or blind • death of calves / lambs within a few days of birth • stillbirths



Find out more information and how to report bluetongue by visiting www.gov.wales/bluetongue