

Sheep Health and Welfare Group

The Sheep Health and Welfare Group (SHAWG) is an independent body with membership that reflects the range of organisations involved in the sheep industry. Its focus from 2017 until 2022 will be to guide and assist the Sheep Health and Welfare Strategy for the UK sheep industry. It will continue to act as a very extremely useful link between representatives of the sheep industry with Government departments and their agencies.

Vision: A UK sheep flock where health and welfare are continually improving, and nutrition is optimised, which results in better performance, the production of a safe and quality product, reduced environmental impact and increasing sustainability of the industry.

The main objectives of SHAWG:

1. To reduce the impact of endemic disease by acting on surveillance data and new knowledge
2. To ensure the industry is aware of the threat of any new or re-emerging diseases
3. To promote and encourage responsible use of medicines, including anthelmintics and antimicrobials
4. To ensure welfare is maintained as a priority for the sheep industry
5. To highlight the role of nutrition in good health and welfare
6. To deliver an integrated approach with all stakeholders, allied support industries, retailers and Government

Membership:

SHAWG shall be made up of members appointed by the organisations involved (see Appendix 1).

Appointments:

The group will elect a Chair and a Vice Chair for two year terms. The Chair and Vice Chair may hold office for no more than three consecutive two-year terms. The Chair or Vice Chair need not be an existing group member at the time of election. It is likely that the Vice Chair becomes the Chair. The appointments will be staggered to ensure succession.

Three farmer representatives will be identified by the members of the group, and will be asked to join the group as full members for no more than three consecutive two-year terms. The appointments will be staggered to ensure succession. See appendix 2.

Three months prior to the end of the term, the SHAWG secretariat will ask group members to nominate people and then will vote to elect, or decide to re-appoint the Chair, Vice Chair and three farmer representatives. Each industry member organisation will receive one vote per appointment. These roles will be paid with the remuneration levels agreed by AHDB Beef & Lamb. Standard class travel costs and mileage at 45p per mile will be covered.

Other members of the Group are funded by the organisation they represent to attend a meeting and not by the Group.

Non-members may attend by invitation for discussion of relevant agenda items.

Structure:

The group will normally have three face-to face meetings per year. Teleconferences will be planned between meetings if required.

A monthly update email will be circulated around the group by the secretariat. This will include updates on ongoing activity and reports from any meetings the Chair or Vice Chair has attended on behalf of SHAWG.

If the group members decide a biennial conference or progress report are required, a sub-group of SHAWG will be involved in the planning.

Terms of reference:

- The group will develop and maintain the Sheep Health and Welfare Strategy on surveillance, research and disease risk assessment, management, elimination and control, and to include the impact of nutrition
- The group will work with sheep producers, the veterinary profession, the livestock, food and allied support industries, Government, consumers and other stakeholders to foster ownership of the Sheep Health and Welfare Strategy and a shared commitment to its outcomes

- The group may investigate any topic falling within the scope of the Sheep Health and Welfare Strategy and publish such advice, analysis and commentary as it considers appropriate
- The group will promote a co-ordinated and integrated approach to best practice in the prevention and control of disease to maintain and enhance the health, welfare and wellbeing of sheep in the UK

Role of the Chair:

- To be an influential sector representative with experience in both industry and government initiatives
- To attend relevant meetings and workshops on behalf of SHAWG and to report back to the group
- To promote the activity of SHAWG with appropriate industry organisations and government departments
- To ensure that the discussions and activities fit within the scope of the strategy and terms of reference for the Group
- To work with the secretariat to provide timely responses to requests, and to develop agendas and supporting papers for the meetings
- To ensure every opportunity is taken to prevent multiple members attending the same meeting as everyone should be encouraged to report back
- The Vice Chair will act as a substitute for the Chair whenever required

Role of the secretariat:

- To be provided by AHDB Beef & Lamb
- To arrange up to three physical meetings per year plus additional conference calls where necessary, and the administration of the meetings and actions
- To work with the chair to develop agendas and supporting papers for the meetings
- To distribute monthly reports to the members, which includes reports from meetings that have been attended and meetings that are booked in
- To support the Chair and Group members in delivering the agreed annual plan
- To develop the annual budget and to manage the claims from the officials
- To coordinate quarterly financial and activity reports for AHDB Beef & Lamb

APPENDIX 1: Membership organisations

Organisation	Representative
Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB Beef & Lamb) [secretariat]	Liz Genever, Katie Brian
Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)	Amanda Carson
Animal Health and Welfare Board for England (AHWBE)	Tim Morris
Animal Health Distributors Association (AHDA)	Bryan Lovegrove
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)	Nigel Gibbens
Farmer representative	Peter Baber (chair)
Farmer representative	Charles Sercombe
Livestock Auctioneers Association (LAA)	Chris Dodds
National Sheep Association (NSA)	Joanne Briggs, Phil Stocker
National Office of Animal Health (NOAH)	Grace O’Gorman
Red Tractor Assurance (RTA)	Jess Sloss
Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA)	John Avizienius
Scottish Government	Nick Ambrose
Sheep Veterinary Society (SVS)	Tim Beddington, Rebecca Mearns
Sustainable Control of Parasites in Sheep (SCOPS)	Lesley Stubbings
Quality Meat Scotland (QMS)	Doug Bell
Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework	Huw Davies
Welsh Assembly Government	Christianne Glossop, Chris Hale