



National Sheep Association

Activities report to NSA Board January 2018

*This report refers to main activities since the November 2017 meeting.
Activities are presented under a set of common headings*

Tech and policy

NSA UK P&T Committee

The UK P&T committee met in Birmingham on 6th December for their 4th and final meeting of the year. Alongside a busy agenda Simon Hall of Defra addressed the committee on developments with the livestock information programme and the traceability design users group. Draft minutes are available. Dan Phipps announced his standing down as Chair of UK P&T due to his nomination as Eastern region Trustee/Director, a role he is expecting to take up from January 2018. The committee were made aware that they need to be thinking about new Chair nominations in preparation for the appointment of a new chair in the first meeting of 2018 on the 7th March.

Although no attendance has been made from any of the ram sales committees, or from WCF during the year, all have received invites and agendas/minutes. The annual NSA ram sales and UK P&T joint meeting is set for 17th January where we have Liz Genever presenting on the AHDB RamCompare project and also an overview of our ram longevity research work.

Brexit

A highly significant amount of time continues to be spent on Brexit related issues, attending meetings called by others, communicating with the press, and finalising and communicating NSA positions. It is sometimes difficult to be clear about the effectiveness of time spent but there is clearly a danger of debates going on without our input – our view either doesn't get accounted for, or we end up being out of the loop and left out further in future. The UK Livestock Brexit Group continues to meet monthly (6th November, 8th December and the 26th Jan 2018) . NSA is a founding member of this group and also takes and prepares notes to support its operation. The group is proving particularly useful at sharing views and information and is now supported by Defra staff, AHDB staff, HCC staff, and has recently had a rep from Scottish Government and Welsh Govt confirmed to attend. The December meeting was almost exclusively given to a Defra workshop where Defra confirmed the value of this group to them and asked that they use it as a formal route into livestock industry engagement. The focus of the workshop was around 4 key themes;

1. WTO – an update on the work that the Defra WTO team is undertaking with the Commission to establish the UK's schedule, next steps planned and progress of the timetable.
2. Transitioning existing EU FTAs – the Global Trade Negotiations team will provide an overview of the cross Whitehall approach to transitioning existing EU-third country agreements into UK bilateral agreements. They are interested in understanding which trade agreements are important to stakeholders and the specific aspects of these agreements that could obstruct continuity of UK trade with third countries.
3. Future trade policy with Rest of World – the Trade Policy and Strategy team are tasked with thinking beyond Day 1 of Exit from the EU, and the opportunities and challenges that that will



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bring to the farming and food sectors. They will update you on their work, and then open up discussion with questions around sector-specific issues.

4. Operations and Systems – feedback from our first round of engagement showed that this is a key area of concern for stakeholders. The Trade Operations Team will talk about their role in coordinating all the systems that are being developed in this area, and will provide what information that they can on the progress of the various Day 1 projects.

The January meeting is planned to look at various organisations positions and discuss differences.

NSA is also part of the cross sector NFU chaired Brexit group. The last meeting in December was attended by George Milne for NSA with agenda items including 'A post Brexit farm policy', and 'Farm Assurance post Brexit' with Jim Moseley (CEO of Red Tractor) in attendance.

NSA is a member of 2 Defra farming round tables relating to Brexit, and is communicating closely with administrations in all devolved nations where appropriate. In Wales we have now been invited onto 2 evidence gathering and scenario setting Brexit groups.

NSA Brexit positions generally appear to be well accepted and are helping NSA be seen as authoritative and respected.

On 21st November we attended a Policy Forum conference on agriculture and the environment post Brexit where we managed to make the case for the dual sustainability of sheep farming (production and environment) and the positivity we are seeing from the sheep industry in attracting young people.

On the 1st November, following the submission of written evidence, NSA was invited and gave verbal evidence to a House of Lords Select Committee looking at the impact of Brexit on trade and following this we were invited to do some press work with the Lib Dems on the potential impact of a bad deal (tariffs) for the upland sheep sector.

TSE controls

Due in no small part to the relationships and communication working via the UKLIBG it was raised during December that the EU Commission are planning to take a decision possibly in February on plans to remove spinal cords from the list of SRM. NSA is aware that our proposals of changing the ageing of sheep from tooth eruption to a set date were damaged by the UK Govt's lack of support for the Commission proposals and we were made aware of an action on the UK Govt to review its position on reviewing SRM material. Further to this NSA wrote to George Eustice and received a response from Lord Gardiner saying that Defra had done a risk analysis and were discussing with Public Health England and the Dept of Health. This communication was followed up with an e mail to a contact in Public Health England for clarification of their position. No further communication had been received at time of writing this report but NSA will continue to push for the change to system of ageing sheep and will support (would prefer) the broader rolling back of TSE controls (such as the removal of the spinal cord from SRM material) particularly with the success of the National Scrapie Plan. The Govt's Sheep TSE Surveillance Statistics are available at the following website:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/666544/pub-tse-stats-sheep.pdf

Sheep and LFAs

Our Hill and Upland report continues to be used where at all possible to make the case for the importance of upland sheep farming. This case seems to be being increasingly accepted and indeed cited by our Sec of State as an example of where funding is needed and justified. It takes us into the subject of what type of sheep farming really delivers good environmental outcomes. It seems to be widely accepted amongst upland sheep farmers and others that it is traditional sheep farming that is most appropriate, using hill breeds, extensive grazing, and connected with the stratified system. Our work on heritage breeds is intended to support this view, creating a market demand for the types of breeds associated.

The Black Mountains Land Use Partnership, chaired by Phil Stocker, is starting to give us real value and a close and practical connection with the development of upland sheep farming. NSA is not a partner but our involvement is close and beneficial for both parties.

While not relating to uplands alone the subject of trees and sheep has recently been debated and appears to reaffirm our existing position of there being plenty of opportunity to integrate trees into farmed landscapes in the form of shelter belts, small areas of indigenous plantings, and many related public benefits. We can be proactively in favour of this type of approach whereas large scale block softwood plantations at the other end of the spectrum damage sheep farming, cause significant environmental damage, and bring little to local communities and economies. We are planning to update our sheep and trees guide in partnership with the Woodland Trust during the Spring and aiming to launch at Sheep 2018.

Sheep and arable

Our work in producing the report 'The role of sheep in lowland rotational arable farming' has proved timely, in line with many comments being made by Ministers and farming commentators, and has also led to a small number of research/development opportunities. The 2-year research project is still ongoing in collaboration with Brown & Co., AHDB, Organic Research Centre (ORC) and Frontier Agriculture Ltd., investigating the benefits of sheep grazing within arable rotations for both the sheep and the arable farmers. The next project meeting is being held this month to confirm study design, sampling and methodology, with the on-farm trial beginning in July. This project will be funded through iSAGE (innovation for sustainable sheep and goat production in Europe) research project with the results contributing as an innovative case study (WP4).

Linking in to this, we have also been approached by Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH) after the last SARIC meeting to collaborate in similar on farm trials to those described above. NSA has confirmed our interest in collaborating, but we are still awaiting further instruction as to the status of this project. It is suspected that this will run 1 year behind the above collaboration across multiple farms in different geographical locations (Integrated into SARIC proposal discussed below).

Genetic & knowledge transfer

Just prior to the previous update in November, the NSA had submitted a collaborative bid with SRUC, AHDB and AbacusBio for a 50K DEFRA funded tender titled "UK Sheep Genetic Improvement scoping Study". I'm delighted to report that this bid was successful, with the first kick-off meeting scheduled for the 22nd January. We aim to act as the lead industry partner ensuring any project outcomes are viable, economic and effective within the sheep industry. Our deliverables will be discussed, confirmed and timeframes proposed in this meeting.

The commercially confidential new genetic identification and improvement proposal involving the Myomax gene (in collaboration with CIEL, Tesco & APB) was submitted for funding on the 6th December. At this time, a decision on funding has not yet been passed. We expect to hear whether the bid was successful early/mid-February. Integrated into this, Rob Hodgkins (lead farmer involved in this innovation) has offered his support for speaking at future NG ambassador events, training and workshops as well as other NSA events.

The Ram Longevity project is now complete and the report findings are on the NSA web site and were presented at the Sheep Breeders Round Table in November. The results will be discussed at the joint P&T and ram sales meeting planned for January 17th.

Technology Transfer:

Research – NSA continues to increase its presence in more formal research work areas and with the new livestock research position occupied, it allows a more proactive role to be taken NSA. Since the previous report, there have been numerous collaboration requests from CEH, Rothamsted Institute, PhD students and even foreign universities.

The NSA's contribution to the iSAGE project continues to remain high, with all major efforts still focusing on work package one; the sustainability assessments. Around 30 sustainability assessments using the public goods (PG) tool have been successfully completed to date. Preliminary analysis was

conducted for the 18-month project meeting held in Toulouse in November 2017. At this time there are no significant outcomes to report, however when all partners have submitted their data, more reliable evaluations can be conducted. Any outstanding sustainability assessments from the UK aim to be completed by June 2018. Farmer feedback remains high which was reflected in the initial results. The first draft of sustainability data is expected December 2018.

Assessment of the Next Generation Ambassador programme (as part of the iSAGE case study/innovations) is underway, being led by the ORC. Preliminary results should be out this year. A further iSAGE case study investigating copper oxide bolus on Haemonchus worms in lambs is now complete and preliminary results to be expected March 2018. Analysis is being conducted by staff at the ORC but KE of the results will be led by NSA. Further on farm trials planned for summer 2018 are dependant on initial findings.

The final iSAGE case study evaluating Flock Health Club Ltd. has begun. Samantha Mullender (ORC) is leading data collection in the form of focus groups, interviews and questionnaires, with NSA providing assistance where required. For farmer facing interviews, Nicola aims to be present to ensure communication channels remain open between researcher and farmer. Telephone surveys began late December 2017 and will continue this month as a priority. After this, focus groups and face to face interviews will be planned.

At the end of November, NSA was approached by various members of the consortium to act as an external expert/advisor to them on a SARIC Research Proposal. Titled "Restoring soil health through re-integration of sheep and leys in arable rotations" headed by Prof. J Leake, Sheffield University, aims to be an important strategy to improve aspects of soil function and structure at the same time as creating opportunities for sheep production through an integrative approach. CEH aim to integrate on-farm trials described above into this bid. Overall, the project aims to investigate optimising the resilience of agricultural systems and landscapes whilst enhancing productivity and sustainability. This project should begin early this year.

NSA has agreed to support two foreign Erasmus placements this year and the next. This year, a Swiss group of farmers and vets are interested in visiting to understand the UK stratified sheep system and get some hands on practical experience on UK farms. In 2019, a Turkish group of sheep breeders are interested in learning about our breed societies, visiting UK farms and attending focus groups with specific breed societies and their members. This direct international knowledge exchange is a first for NSA but aims to educate as well as encourage international relationships. Remuneration has been offered for the time and expense required to plan, organise and execute these study tours successfully.

Sheep Health and Welfare:

There have been no reports of SBV in early lambing flocks to date. As far as we are aware there is no vaccine available and an assumption that some level of natural immunity is being experienced but with the risk of flare ups as immunity lessens and the virus becomes established in the midge population.

Blue Tongue – the risk of environmental spread from the EU currently remains as low due to weather conditions in France and on the Channel. Recent work has been conducted on movement controls in the event of an outbreak. It appears to be agreed that fully vaccinated and converted stock (evidenced) will be allowed to move as will stock for slaughter in most situations. The Defra core group still have more work to do on this subject.

The 2 sheep lameness events delivered in partnership with MSD took place in November, in Gloucestershire, and Cumbria. Both were well attended and successful. At least one further event is planned in 2018.

The Wellcome Trust submitted a bid for a 4-year project aiming to "develop new ways of understanding and intervening in livestock disease and welfare" in September this year. The bid has reached the final interview selection stages with one final interview at the end of this month. Our partner at the Wellcome Trust has advised that there is a 50% chance of being successful with this

bid. If successful, NSA will act as the lead industry project collaborator, produce a technical report and use our well-established communication systems to disseminate findings.

Early November NSA was approached to assist with a 3rd year vet student at Liverpool University conducting a PhD project researching the UK distribution of *Echinococcus granulosus* in a number of host species including dogs, sheep and cattle. The research is funded mainly by the Biotechnology and Biological Research Council (BBSRC) with a contribution from Bayer plc, and aims to sample the faeces of farm dogs (working or pet) on sheep and cattle farms together with a short farmer questionnaire to gather data on worming and diets fed. NSA will assist in locating farms with the correct criteria combined with a willingness to participate by approaching its members.

Sheep scab has become a worsening problem over the autumn/winter months, worsening in numbers of cases but also due to reported scab mite resistance to the ML injectables. In Wales a sheep scab group that Helen is involved in has launched a final report that will be used to steer activities in the future. In light of this, Nicola is investigating the potential to submit a bid for funding to support further research into scab eradication campaigns. This NSA initiative, sparked by Helen, began just before Christmas and is still in its infancy. ADAS Drayton are working on some form of new treatment for sheep scab which is good news although confidential – NSA has helped them with contacts to buy a number of infected animals. Continuing with the scab theme Lesley Stubbings has organised a 2 day workshop on the 9th and 10th January, involving NSA, exploring the sheep scab problem and what can be done to improve the situation.

NSA was invited to attend the British Sheep Dairying Association Annual conference in December. Despite the snowy weather conditions there was still a remarkable turn-out of farmers, suppliers and researchers. Talks focused on nutrition (by Lesley Stubbings), as well as understanding forage (Paul Mardell, DW feeds), mineral supplementation (Georgina Thomas, Trouw Nutrition) and Johnes (Dr. Yoau Alony-Gilboa). Nicola gave a short presentation on the iSAGE project and the requirement for sheep (and goat) dairy farmers to participate. As a result, a number of sheep dairy farms were secured for iSAGE on farm sustainability assessments. It was a delight to see that along with current dairy sheep producers in the UK, there were goat dairy farmers and even young prospective farmers interested in potentially starting up sheep dairying.

The subject of antibiotics use continues as a high priority. NSA attended a Save our Antibiotics Alliance workshop in December where they made it clear they felt the targets achieved (mainly in the areas of pig and poultry) were low hanging fruit and that further significant reductions were unlikely without systems changes. This group recognise sheep farming as a low user of ABs and attribute much of that to the extensive nature of the system. They intend their campaigning to focus on intensive livestock systems going forward.

NSA also, via Bryan Griffiths, took part in an antibiotics evidence session at the House of Lords on the 12th December where Bryan had the chance to promote our thinking around a sheep health/environment health/farm health scheme.

We are also closely involved in NOAH proposals for farmer awareness and optional training in antibiotic use. Red Tractor Assurance is now in the process of refining its standards relating to antibiotic use and recording, the main changes being the need for an annual veterinary review of antibiotic use and greater identification of antibiotic use.

There has been no recent progress on decisions over the release of Lynx into Kielder, however we did what we could to make the most of an opportunity when a Lynx escaped from Borth Zoo. 6 sheep were found dead in circumstances that strongly suggested a Lynx kill, and we did a considerable amount of press and media work, including a further letter to Ministers, to point out what could happen if Lynx were released.

Sheep worrying/attacks:

Our work on sheep worrying and dog attacks continues. Most recently our work has helped influence the AHWBE to pick the subject up, via Tim Morris and this has now resulted in an All Party Parliamentary Group report on tackling irresponsible dog behaviour relating to livestock.

Our short case study on dog worrying produced by Dr. Garcia from One Welfare is currently undergoing peer review. Once complete, this will be publicised and highlighted through various means of NSA communication demonstrating our continued proactive approach to increasing public awareness and reducing sheep attacks.

CAP

Not CAP specifically but our domestic agriculture policy will be consulted on in the first half of 2018 with an Ag Bill white paper expected. Similar policy positions on environment policy will also be consulted on shortly

Trade & marketing

Trade continues to be the first priority relating to Brexit discussions and still much of the UKLIBG meetings are taken up with related subjects such as the future trade arrangement with the EU, the development of new markets, health certification, tariff rate quota shares relating to existing EU import quotas (see above).

NSA continues to feed into AHDB market development strategies with the aim of influencing their spending and activities. At all times we are pushing to maximise the spend on marketing, product development, and promotions both in our domestic market and overseas. During this period we have welcomed AHDB's Halal manager to our English Committee to discuss opportunities and needs of the Halal sector. We have also met with AHDB Beef and Lamb strategy Director and the chair of the beef and lamb board to discuss our work on heritage breeds, receiving encouraging interest and support.

The next Smokies working group is set for the 19th January where the group will discuss a draft protocol for production.

The NSA Heritage Breeds market feasibility study is well underway and we have received some 140 responses to the survey. We have now met with Defra and AHDB to discuss the work and findings to date and are planning to meet with HCC shortly. A heritage mutton tasting was carried out at the Welsh Winter Fair with over 200 tastings done and some conclusive results showing clear differences in sensory taste between the samples. A funders steering group meeting is in the process of being organised and the next significant stage is a consumer survey.

Electronic identification, movement recording, and alternatives to 6 days standstill

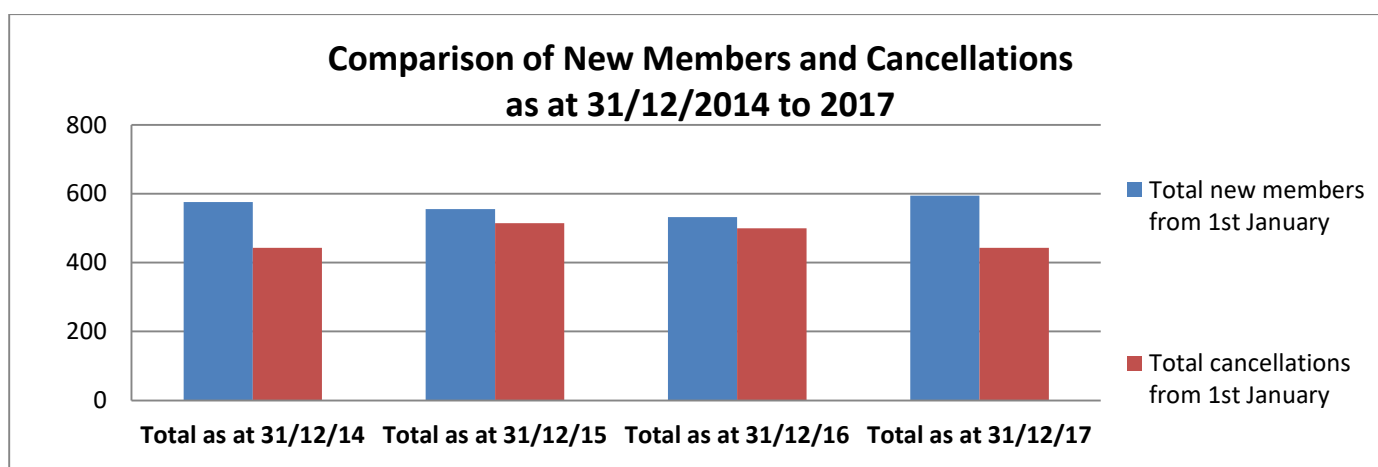
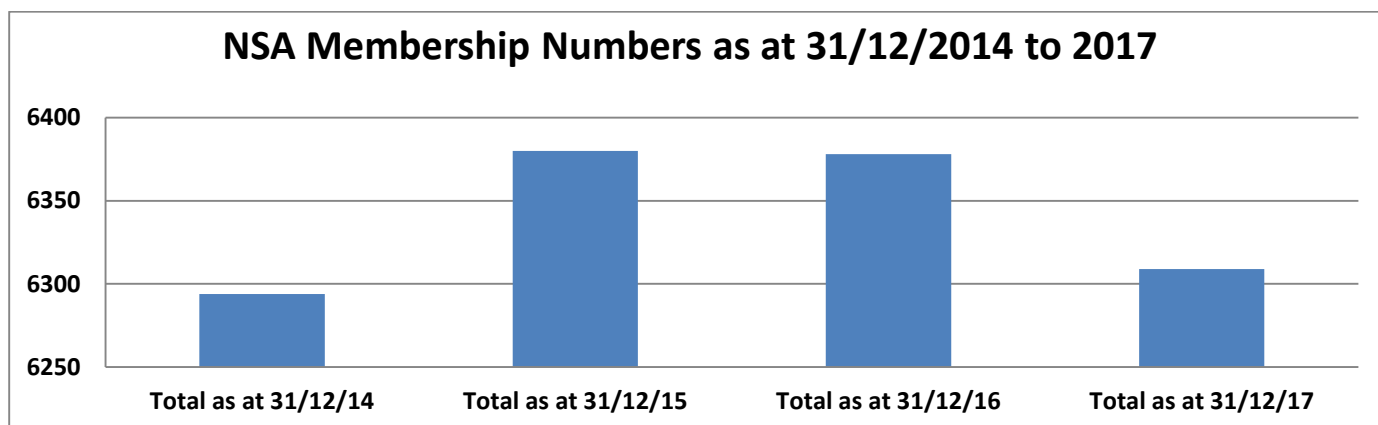
The Defra led Traceability Design Board (now called Traceability Design Users Group) continues to meet regularly, the aim being an all species database for movements combined with a Livestock Information Programme. The team is starting to work on physical design and in addition to the normal users group meetings an additional stakeholders workshop was held at Stoneleigh, attended on behalf of NSA by Dan Phipps and David Howlett. As reported above Simon Hall Defra Director responsible for this work, attended a NSA UK P&T meeting in December to discuss the work and approaches.

EID Cymru appears to show a few problems in its progress to be compatible with farm software and we discussed this with WG and QWFC at the Welsh winter fair. Issues found are the apparent duplication of movement reports and also data protection challenges with receiving holders CPH details being fully accessible by reporting keepers.

Farm Assurance

The new standards relating to antibiotics were discussed at December's RTA TAC. It was agreed that it will be up to individuals to choose recording methods to comply with the standards although RTA will offer a template as an option. The key change in standards is for an annual vet visit to be required where antibiotics are being prescribed with a review of useage and clearer recording of antibiotic use. It was also agreed that the recording of this information will not be used for industry wide data collection but will remain in the hands of the farming business. An additional recommendation is to undergo training on antimicrobial issues and usage. This relates to the work being done by NOAH. Structurally there are still uncertainties over the Boards/committees and representation of RTA. Contact has been made with RTA CEO Jim Moseley and a meeting is planned for the 25th January.

Membership Report for Board Meeting January 2018 – 4th Quarter 2017



Recent press coverage

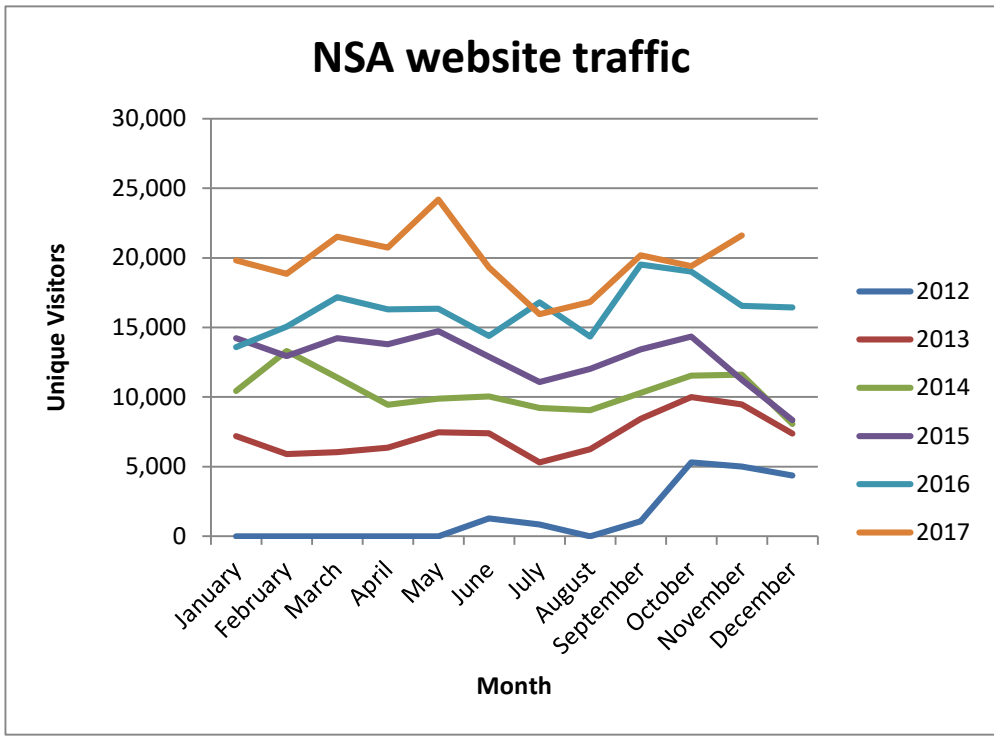
- Ongoing areas of NSA work made up the main of press activity during the later part of 2017. This included reinstating the association’s position on live exports amid press interest in the topic relating to Brexit, a reminder of the potential dangers of a lynx release following an escape of a captive animal and release of the Ram Longevity report results which NSA has been heavily involved in.
- Other subjects covered in October and November were the promotion of upcoming NSA events. These included the NSA Next Generation Event and NSA South East Region Health, Wealth and production conference, both held in November.
- The first in a series of planned releases to publicise NSA Sheep 2018 was also issued in December.

Website and social media

- The number of people reached by posts on NSA’s Facebook and Twitter in the final part of 2017 were some of the highest seen yet. On average between 2,000 – 6,000 accounts were reached.

- A mixture of posts on NSA work, mixed with more light-hearted topics are behind this interaction growth, with followers to NSA's Facebook and Twitter increasing by 1,976 and 2,645 respectively during 2017.

- Website traffic is continuing to rise steadily month on month, specifically in late October and into November when there was a spike in visitors (see *graph*). Reasons for this are attributed to the NSA Lambing List and online NSA Next Generation Ambassador applications opening around this time.



- Referrals to the NSA website via online sources (other websites, the Weekly Email Update and social media) also saw a significant increase in November at 17%, an increase from 7% in the previous month.

NSA Next Generation

- The NSA Next Generation Event 2017 was a huge success, held on Wednesday 15th November at Welshpool Livestock Market. More than 100 young sheep farmers attending to hear from several speakers and take part in a series of interactive workshops on a range of topics to equip them with knowledge to get ahead in their careers or education.
- The match-making service NSA offers to connect young people looking for a job or work experience is becoming increasingly popular, with adverts in the Weekly Email Update already booked-up well into 2018.
- The NSA Lambing List is now live and is well populated with adverts from NSA members looking for help at lambing time. Feedback from the vast majority of users continues to be positive, with the service now serving as a valuable membership recruitment tool.
- We have received several requests to speak at agricultural universities and colleges in the New Year, on NSA's work and services it can offer young people to help them get started in their sheep farming careers. This is a fantastic promotional opportunity and way to reach and involve the industry's younger generation.
- Applications for the NSA Next Generation Ambassador group 2018 closed in November, with regions asked to shortlist candidates for interviews which will take place in January 2018.

Breed Societies / Breed Society Forum

- After its update in summer 2017, the breed directory area of the website hosting information about sheep breeds is almost complete with just the absence of some photographs from Breed Societies. This will be picked up in the New Year.
- The annual update letter to NSA-affiliated Breed Societies is planned for January 2018. Alongside an affiliation invoice, this will include an update on NSA activity and plans for the NSA Breed Society Forum 2018.

NSA Regions

Cymru/Wales region – report from Helen Davies

In early December we were very fortunate to meet with Lesley Griffiths Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs for an on-farm meeting in Oswestry. Encouraging messages on threats and opportunities surrounding Brexit, trade, live exports, lynx release and the impact of quarantine units were heard by a group of NSA Cymru/Wales Region office holders, alongside Phil Stocker.

The ARMM will take place on Thursday 22nd February in Hafod y Hendre, Royal Welsh Show Ground at 2pm. From 12.30pm Members and friends are welcome to join us for Traditional Welsh Cawl, tea and coffee before listening to our impressive line up of speakers. We have Ron Mounsey – Life after Farming. Ron was a dairy farmer until 1998 and then trained to take on a McDonalds franchise and now runs 15 restaurants from Pembroke Dock to Newport, Gwent. Sion Ifans Welsh Lamb & Beef Producers, presentation on the WLBP database, which is one of the membership benefits WLBP has to offer. Followed by Phil Stocker NSA CEO giving an update of NSA Activities & Caryl Hughes 2017 NSA Young Ambassador.

The Region is pleased to announce that NSA Welsh Sheep 2019 will take place at Glynliffon College, near Caernarfon, going to a college will be a new venture for NSA Welsh Sheep and we are looking forward to working with the college to promote NSA Cymru and what the college has to offer.

We had a stand at the Welsh Winter Fair 27th and 28th Nov where lamb tastings took place to try to distinguish between the breeds. This went down very well

Wales and Border Ram Sale – report from Jane Smith

Nothing to report.

Northern Ireland Region – report from Edward Adamson

Over the last quarter of 2017 I have been involved in several meetings of The N.I. FQAS Standards Setting Committee which have now been finalised. One of our new standards added is a simple few additional requirements (Bait Plan etc) approved by CRRU which will mean FQAS members do not have to train and get a certificate to allow the use of rodenticides on farm.

6/11 25th Anniversary Celebration of N.I. FQAS
13/11 Scott Robertson Lecture at Queens University
17th -19th/11 Sheep Breeders Round Table
20/11 Agrisearch AGM
20/11 N.I. NSA ARMM
22/11 Agrisearch 20th Anniversary Celebration
29/11 Joint Industry Lamb Conference (250 attended)
5/12 Red Meat Advisory Board
6/12 UK P & T Meeting
7/12 RDP Meeting
12/12 Maternal Sheep Group Meeting
14/12 RUAS Winter Fair

Scotland – report from George Milne

1.11.17 Meeting with Cabinet Secretary, Fergus Ewing MSP. John Fyall and I attended a meeting with Mr Ewing in the Scottish Parliament to discuss a number of issues in connection with the sheep sector and Brexit.
3.11.17 Attended NFUS Brexit round table discussion group meeting held in Edinburgh. Proved very beneficial to have been in London and met with the Cabinet Secretary earlier in the week.
7.11.17 Attended ARD (Agricultural rural development) stakeholder meeting in Edinburgh.
13.11.17 Scottish region committee meeting where those in attendance were invited to contribute to a paper for a vision for the sheep sector in Scotland.
14.11.17 Scottish government climate change group meeting held in Perth.
15.11.17 Attend Agri Scott event in Edinburgh.

17.11.17 Invited to attend along with Chairman and vice chair a conference to present an interim report from the Scottish Agricultural champions.
 21.11.17 Attend the Moredun
 30.11.17 Invited to attend St.Andrews day dinner which featured Scotch lamb on the menu.
 5.12.17 attend a Cross party political debate in the parliament on the need for overseas skilled labour for the agricultural sector.
 6.11.17 QMS industry lamb group meeting and Sheep vision group meeting.
 8.11.17 UK livestock group meeting in Birmingham
 12.12.17 Meeting with chairman and vice chair to go over various consultation papers that need responses to from the NSA.

Scottish region AGM and dinner will be held on the 14th February 2018 at Airth Castle.

NSA Scotsheep 2018 will be held on Wednesday 30th May at Kings Arms Farm, Ballantrae, South Ayrshire.

Kindly hosted by the Dalrymple family the event is being organised once again by Euan Emslie and the organising committee is being chaired by George Allan.

Significant external meetings and contacts not covered above (Phil S)

31st Oct Met with Laura Ryan and Adam Quinney AHDB to discuss NSA Heritage Breeds work
 SHAWG and AHWBE meeting on sheep health and welfare within post Brexit farm schemes
 1st Nov NOAH conference and gave evidence to EFRA Select committee on impact of Brexit on trade
 2nd Nov NFU Cymru conference
 3rd Nov Defra Farming productivity round table + meeting with Ben O'Brien of NZB&L
 6th Nov UKLIBG meeting
 7th Nov BMLUP Bracken contractor short listing
 8th Nov NSA Board meeting
 10th Nov NSA Cymru committee meeting
 14th Nov Save our Antibiotics seminar + House of Lords Farmers Club lunch
 15th Nov Next generation conference Welshpool
 16th Nov Tele conf with RTA re live export assurance
 16th Nov WG Evidence and scenario setting
 16th Nov Meeting with Mike Peterson at the Malvern farming conference
 17th – 19th Nov Sheep Breeders Round table
 20th Nov WCF AGM and committee meeting
 21st Nov UK farming and environment post Brexit conference
 23rd FGP
 27th Nov Welsh winter fair
 29th Nov English committee
 30th Nov Meeting with Lesley Griffiths
 4th Dec BMLUP partnership meeting
 6th Dec UK P&T
 7th Dec Southsheep meeting
 8th Dec UKLIBG
 11th Dec Defra Traceability design group
 11th Dec Joint NSA / AHDB northern farmers meeting
 12th Dec Meet with Sue Martyn the Dartmoor Hill farmers group talk
 13th Dec AHDB meeting re Heritage Breeds
 13th Dec RTA TAC
 18th Dec Visit to Farmers Fresh
 19th Dec Defra exotic diseases core group call
 19th Dec BMLUP SMS Project Borad
 19th Dec BMLUP Bracken control meeting
 4th Jan Meet with Old Mill
 4th Jan Meet with Mike Lee Rothamsted/ North Wyke
 5th Jan Oxford Real farming conference
 9th and 10th Jan Sheep scab working group meeting