

Activities report to NSA Board 18.11.2020

This report refers to main activities in quarter 3 of 2020. Activities are presented under a set of common headings.

NSA policy, technical and research work

Brexit: Deal / no deal

- At time of writing, with 6 weeks to go, there is still no indication of whether we will leave the EU at the end of December with, or without a free trade deal. We are still faced with trading on WTO tariffs in the case of no deal being agreed and in this case sheepmeat will see tariff rates of on average 46% of value. Deal or no deal there are a number of areas that are likely to make trade difficult (below), possibly for weeks, or months, or longer.
- NI protocols are still not clear and the principle seems to be that a virtual border will exist between the UK mainland and NI with a 'risk based' inspection and possible tariff (in the case of no deal) based on trade trends between north and south Ireland. Mapping of movements across the Irish border is still being carried out.

Border Control Points (BCP): There is no priority product recognition for meat and other perishable products to allow priority access through the BCPs. NSA is working with other stakeholders on this but with little support from government and a reliance on the theory that everything will be OK.

- Currently no sea ports on the northern European coast that accept live animals from a 3rd country. We have joined with others on an industry letter and calls with Calais, Zeebrugge and Dunkirk. Calais have ruled out live animals. Dunkirk are positive but are not prepared to fund and expect others to cover any costs. P&O ferries are the only mainstream deep hulled shippers and they don't go to Dunkirk anyway. Good progress has been made with Export health certificates (EHC), and plenty of guidance on this topic shared with members.

Meat identification / health marks: Guidance issued for use of UK / EU logos from 1st January (28th September) and PGI's (29th September). Still some uncertainty over meat identification / health marks to be used from 1st January. FSA & DEFRA have issued guidance (in the form of online literature and webinars) but clarity is still needed to avoid delays at BCP. In the case of a deal protection for UK GI's will continue in EU with 3-year transition period from 1st Jan 2021 to use new labels.

Ear tags for any sheep exported live will need to be changed to GB tags rather than UK tags. Full details are not yet available.

EU Zootechnics challenge: from 1st Jan UK Breed societies can't include members from outside the UK. If those farmers want to be part of a society (and their breeding programmes) they need to be registered in the EU. The situation on the island of Ireland is that there could be some 500 breeders south of the border with several 10's of thousands of sheep and that trade and breeding is fully integrated. The principle of the Good Friday agreement that both the UK and the EU seem to have signed up to would suggest that farmers on the island of Ireland should be able to work together on breeding policies. Therefore the border looks likely to be between the mainland and NI. For breed societies there is potential for an office to be set-up in Dublin, with a registration and address in the south that could be a base for a number of breed societies, and then contract the work back to the UK breed society. This office could provide zootech certificates with an EU address. NSA organised and hosted a meeting on 17th November on behalf of all species, involving DEFRA and breed societies to discuss logistics. Suggested that live animals can still travel from both zootech and non zootech societies but can't be registered in UK flock book.

Other trade deal progress

NSA holds seat on the DIT Agri Food Trade Advisory Group

NZ FTA round 2 negotiations completed 2nd November. 3rd round due Jan 2021. Moving quickly and NZ wanting full open liberalised trade deal with UK. DEFRA and DIT do understand sensitivities of one-way trade for sheepmeat.

Australia FTA 3rd round negotiations due end November. Keen to move quickly. Keen to increase TRQ volumes and Australia are well below NZ TRQ (9000T vs 120,000T)

US FTA round 6 negotiations postponed due to election. Discussions prior to this were looking positive.

UK-Japan trade deal confirmed 23rd October. NSA does not see a trade deal with Japan as a risk to the UK sheep sector. Japan relies on imports of sheep meat to supply its domestic demand so creating opportunities can only be positive as it opens up an additional market for British exports. The Japan deal brings new protection for more iconic UK goods with the aim to increase geographical indications from just seven to over 70 in the future. There also seems to be a specific focus on 'farmed animals' with a view to improving the mutual understanding of our respective laws and regulations, potentially safeguarding our high animal health, welfare and environmental standards against lower standard imports. Still have reservations over the new and more liberal view on Rules of Origin, which remove certain restrictions contained in the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement. NSA wouldn't want to see the authenticity and value of UK sheep meat and sheep products, undermined by 'substantial transformation'. Two consultation responses submitted:

- i). 'Agriculture and Food Section of House of Lords call for views on trade with Japan' (6th July)
- ii). NSA response to UK-Japan trade negotiations (6th November).

Other consultation responses submitted under this topic include:

- NSA response on Trade and Agriculture Commission call for views on the UK's future trade policies (23rd October)
- NSA response on EU call for comments on 'Food safety - standard official certificates for land animals & reproductive material' (3rd November)
- NSA response on EU call for comments on 'Food safety – standard health certificates for animals & goods' (3rd November)

Welsh Govt 'Brexit, trade and Covid-19' working group initiative re-established, to see effects of covid-19 on previous Brexit/trade planning. Nicola representing NSA, ensuring concerns over how sheep industry has been affected by covid-19 was highlighted. Public report due soon. Positive feedback on contributions.

The LCAG continues and NSA acts as minute taker. This group has evolved into a very effective communications tool for Defra/DIt/ HMRT

The Brexit Farming Round Table continues and NSA plays an active part.

Brexit: Future farm support

The Agriculture Bill became the Agricultural Act on the 12th/13th November when it gained Royal Assent. While proposed amendments to protect our standards by law have not been accepted the Commons has accepted an amendment to raise the powers of the Trade and Agriculture Commission. Originally this was due to be a 6 month task and finish group whereas now it will be an integral part of assessing trade deals on an ongoing basis, reviewed 3 yearly with decisions over trade deals to be voted on through the Commons. This is the point where in future standards will be scrutinised and tariff schedules debated. The Ag Act will be the enabler of future farm schemes and we expect an announcement from the SoS on or around the 25th November on funding commitments and the outline of transition from BPS.

Alongside many engagement opportunities with senior Defra staff on the subject of future farm support NSA held an on line meeting for a number of members from the SW and northern regions in early November with Janet Hughes, Director for Future Farming at Defra. This type of engagement is highly influential in future Govt direction.

ELMS: NSA is heavily involved in the ELMS engagement group which is working to discuss/develop scheme approach. In addition we have arranged 3 regional webinars with the ELMS team and NSA regions and have had numerous discussions and meetings on this subject. We are involved in a number of sub-groups looking at specific topics including commons and uplands, and advice and monitoring approaches. We are also being brought in to a number of Test and Trials projects, in particular run by the Sustainable Food Trust exploring the practicality of sustainability metrics.

In October Defra announced plans for an interim Sustainable Farming Incentive to be launched alongside the ELMS pilot in late 2021/22. This is very much Tier 1 and related to protection of natural capital. It should provide something to engage farmers not in CSS and not eligible for the ELMS pilot. We are now starting to see basic scheme prescription details.

Pathway for Animal Health: 4-stage plan (Engage, investigate, management & monitor/review) that aims to pull together all the things we do in relation to health, in one central location with potential for bolt-on packages such as sheep scab or anthelmintic resistance. NSA is part of working group for sheep.
Productivity: NSA a member of the Defra Agricultural Productivity Task Force. This group is looking at capital grants, exit schemes, skills and training, and benchmarking/KPIs.

Sustainable Food and Farming Scheme (SFFS) white paper produced by NFU. NSA offered support but with several reservations. SFFS supports points-based system for synergy multiplier (more you do, the more public goods your delivering, therefore more payment as holistic approach). NSA have supported it but doesn't see government dropping ELMS and Pathway. Feel that government will use this to influence/work alongside ELMS/Pathway.

While England transition to new schemes will begin in 2021 devolved nations will be later in terms of their own Agricultural Bills and transition to new schemes – probably 2024/25. Wales due to consult on White paper around Christmas.

Original planning for an 'Institute of Sheep Advisors and facilitators has progressed and evolved into Register of Sheep Advisors (RoSA). More details on request but we are looking to launch this scheme in early 2021.

Sheep in upland areas (including sheep stratification)

NSA held meeting with Federation of Cumbria Commons in October to discuss concerns over reduced stocking rates. We have also spoken to Dartmoor commons Association and now planning meeting with Natural England to discuss. Also planning on creating a science group to challenge some of Natural England research on stocking reductions.

Via the BMLUP SMS scheme we have produced a feasibility study looking at alternative markets for wool. Available on request. BMLUP SMS project now complete. Many outputs including the wool report and a PES feasibility study. Bracken control of 340 hectares with monitoring and evaluation. BMLUP is seen as a leading approach to future upland collaborations with holistic outcomes. Please see BM web site and ask for further information

NSA part of ELMS upland sub group

Sheep in arable rotations

No activity in this quarter

Integrating trees into sheep farming systems

NSA challenged research from University of Sheffield (early September) as short-sighted, suggesting that British sheep farmers would profit from allowing their grasslands to regenerate into forest, stressing the benefits of sheep farming to rural economies, communities, the environment and provision of public goods. NSA consultation response submitted on 'DEFRA calls for consultation on England Tree Strategy' (9th September). Highlighted that increasing tree planting and woodland should not come at the cost of sheep farming, but their strategy should allow farmers to utilise funding to increase public goods on farm and ensure sheep farming and the environment work in harmony.

Also fed into research being done by a House of Lords review on tree planting.

Delivered a successful webinar in October by Woodland Trust.

Rewilding

Rewilding still comes across as a serious threat, and in some upland areas it is emerging that policies are not about improving grassland habitats but about creating different habitats. Farmers will question investing in new habitats/trees/agroforestry that will impact their business further down the line. Phil held an informative session with an Environmental Studies university lecture at SRUC discussing rewilding, influencing changes to views on rewilding to be more holistic and even changes to their views on lynx reintroduction - many had previously overlooked the welfare aspect. There were even requests for lectures on 'money for public goods and look at what future subsidies will be for farmers' post Phil's talk.

Reintroductions:

- *Lynx*: Lynx trust gearing up for another application to release Eurasian Lynx into the Kielder Forest in Northumberland. Despite support of Natural England's new Chairman Tony Juniper, permission cannot be granted without support from both sides of the England / Scotland border. Fergus Ewing (Scotland's Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy) has stated publicly that no releases will occur during his term.
- *Sea Eagles*: 6 more Sea Eagles have been released in the Isle of Wight but there have been accounts of Eagles in North Yorkshire Moors. No concerns until 4-5 years old as feed off carrion during this juvenile state. A further steering group meeting is planned for late November.

Sheep health and welfare (including NSA involvement in SHAWG, RUMA, SAAG and SCOPS)

RUMA: NSA continues involvement in RUMA. We have a 2nd phase target for antibiotic use developed with the sheep antibiotic guardian group – mainly around gathering data via the e medicines hub

SAAG: See above

SCOPS: NSA continues to facilitate and provide administration and communication support for SCOPS.

Involved in dipping accreditation programme for mobile dippers and the Take a Dip campaign.

SHAWG: Final event to be held on 24th November, where SHAWG will become Ruminant Health and Welfare Group (RHWG), part of AHDB. Phil to Chair conference session and we are on steering group of RHWG

Other consultations submitted under this heading include:

- NSA consultation response submitted on 'Animal Welfare Committee update on welfare during Covid-19' (24th July)
- NSA consultation response on training and application of veterinary medicines (DEFRA) (8th November)

Sheep identification and movement recording and reporting

Livestock Information Ltd (LIS): DEFRA and AHDB owned. LIS are in process of taking over ARAMS and sheep will now be first to come under LILtd. ARAMS won't end but there will be a cross over period before movement reporting passes over to the database purchased from Shearwell data.

Phil now chairing TDUG data sub-group and due to report by Christmas – on data sources and governance. This should aid data sharing. There is a desire to learn more about industry with need for data which is not connected and not utilised to full potential. Need to consolidate collection of information or provide smart ways to connect current databases (annual inventory, farmbench, farm assurance input etc.). Must aim to

reduce farmer data input in multiple places. NSA play a role in encouraging statutory data input/collection/sharing to improve supply chains e.g. abattoir data (CCIR) to steer RHWG or AHDB services. There are concerns over data sharing and traceability, but TDUG are working closely on this to ensure that governance structure remains in place. Policy issues relating to traceability and disease control await real discussion.

TSE controls

Nothing to report this quarter.

Supply chain concerns (including price reporting, classification and NSA involvement in Hallmark scrutiny committee)

NSA involvement in the Carcass Scrutiny Committee continues and this has definitely improved transparency and communication.

Farm assurance

NSA continues involvement on the Beef and Lamb Board and the Tech Advisory Committee. RTA is about to consult on new standards to be introduced in October 2021. We have successfully kicked back many standards proposals – but are concerned about negative media coverage and farmer opinion when consultation arrives.

NSA submitted consultation response on Red Tractor Standards (markets and collection centres) (31st October).

Engagement with AHDB

We maintain our links with AHDB at all levels and have been in contact with Chair regarding future governance. AHDB strategy due out in November.

Rural crime (including sheep worrying by dogs)

Stakeholder on Sheep worrying project – ‘Protecting Farm Stock Against Theft and Attack from Dogs and Predators’. SRUC investigating use of motion sensors (ideally in EID) to monitor flocks and if stolen track the flock. Discussions in initial phases.

Farm Safety

No meetings of the Farm Safety Partnership have taken place during the third quarter of 2020 with the next meeting planned to take place at the beginning of October.

Farm Safety Week did take place at the beginning July, with key messages of farm safety including child safety on farm, safe use of machinery and the risks of working with livestock all promoted via social media. NSA took part in the week by sharing these messages as well as their own. At the beginning of the week the annual figures for on farm reported accidents and fatalities were shared showing a further decrease in incidents. However, subsequent fatality reports shared with the partnership during the remainder of the quarter indicate that this will not be the case when figures are released for 2020 as a whole with a marked increase on farm related accidents.

Suggestions for the worrying increase of farm accidents relate to the Covid-19 lockdown causing a rise in mental health issues which in turn can affect the incidence of work related accidents, but also an increase in accidents on farm involving children could be due to children spending more time on the farm whilst schools were closed.

Policy work in the devolved nations – see section on regional activities

Any other livestock research with NSA involvement not already covered - General research: We have been approached by a number of organisations to help facilitate farmer responses through our social media and WEU channels. Topics include liver fluke, metrics recorded on farm, ATV safety, sheep scab to mention a few. All these distributions generate revenue.

Letters of support provided for the following projects:

- SEFARI: Moredun to continue work with SCOPS using small project to develop some written and aural information modules for sheep farmers on gastrointestinal nematode control.
- Bio trap Bucket: Severn Trent funding for 'bio trap bucket' designed to reduce contaminated water waste from lambing sheds, entering main water sources without prior treatment/separation. Also looking for behavioural changes as an outcome (small scale application).
- Digital farming in Wales - transforming waste in agriculture to wealth: PhD project seeking stakeholder participation.

Joint applications submitted:

- SHEEPUK: Working with Cardiff University/RVC on genetics/genomics sheep project. Aiming to collect a comprehensive bank of high-quality biological samples (both tissue and semen) from a range of UK sheep breeds, providing a wealth of data to investigate the history of UK sheep breeds, transforming the limited understanding of the historical and ongoing evolutionary processes that have shaped UK sheep diversity at the genomic level through centuries of breed formation, local adaptation and selection. If successful, NSA to have active coordinator role. Fully funded. Application submitted 17th November. Decision will be announced early 2021.
- Sheep Scab RDPE: Working with Moredun (and Lesley Stubbings). Funding to tackle sheep scab in 'hot spot' areas – South West, Midlands, North. If successful, NSA to play active coordinator role in South West region only. Fully funded. Application submitted 13th November. Decision due January 2021.

Successful funding applications:

- ERASMUS: Digital education module in organic animal production and face to face workshops. Due to commence March 2021 for 2 years. NSA responsible for assisting with online module content in sheep sector and coordinating two UK based training events, done in partnership with Organic Research Centre. Fully funded for time, expenses, venue hire, speaker hire etc. Aiming to use NSA barn for both UK training events. Unfortunately, training events are for international students only, however online resources can be shared with members.

Unsuccessful applications for funding:

- Seaweed & Sheep (Nottingham University): Resubmission in progress. Successful in 1st round, further interview 10th December. If successful, second round application will continue Jan 2021.
- Pastures New (Centre for Ecology and Hydrology): aimed to transform UK ruminant meat and dairy food systems to resilient low-input pasture-based approaches which place healthy people and a healthy natural environment at their centre. Will resubmit, once funding available.
- 'Un Tir' One land (Liverpool University): aimed to investigate impact of agri-policy on welfare of Welsh rural communities. No plans to resubmit at this time.

Any other consultations not covered under topics above

More general topics (updated if and when activity occurs)

Genetics – see research above. Ovine Semen Archive Board meeting on 16th November to discuss rationalising the archive

Trade and marketing (including NSA projects around mutton, heritage breeds etc, and NSA involvement in work addressing red meat consumption concerns e.g. Veganuary etc) – Heritage Sheep company now formed and looking for funding to progress. We have an opportunity to pilot in Brecon Beacons area alongside a sustainable food supply chains project in a 2 year project starting in 2021

Wool Petition and call from HRH's office requesting NSA help initiate something that they and the Princes Trust for the Built Environment could use to influence developers. Phil worked closely with British Wool on updating leaflet for 'why use wool insulation in your home', sponsored by campaign for wool. Nicola is currently on the 'Welsh Wool & Textile Discussion Group', working with all those in the supply chain to promote wool. Only met once in Q3. Also asked to attend and contribute to "The wool value chain in Europe - Decision making process to support the creation of shared values and practices" workshop. A round table discussion stimulated dialogue between European stakeholders and policy makers to facilitate the drafting of an harmonized view, aimed at developing the European wool supply value chain. See above mention of alternative markets for wool report.

NSA communications and knowledge exchange work

Press work

Press work remained slightly quieter during the first half of the quarter. As this time coincides with summer holidays it is often a quieter period for press activity relating to policy work but this coupled with the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions and subsequent NSA event cancellations resulted in a quieter time for the NSA Communications team than experienced recently.

Press release issued at the start of the quarter were varied in content, ranging from updates on events related to Covid-19 to policy work with the devolved nations.

The amount of press releases issued during the period however was still up on the previous quarter and on the same time for the past two years. Press activity began to build once again towards the end of the quarter with work related to the approaching departure of the UK from the EU and work requiring completion before the December 31st deadline being the focus of activity.

The table at the end of the report shows the press releases put out in the past quarter per week – the columns show press releases from either NSA Communications officer, Katie James or NSA Policy Officer Ellie Phipps and their different focuses as well as the social media reach for posts that have been placed on social media relating to the press releases.

As Ellie Phipps left her position as NSA Policy Officer in August all press activity is now led by NSA Communications Officer Katie James.

Sheep Farmer magazine – see recent editions

Weekly email update

The NSA members' Weekly Email Update has been sent to approximately 4000 people each Friday during the last quarter, this includes mailings to members (for whom we have email addresses), breed society representatives and a complimentary list, which includes Defra and devolved Government representatives. The number of emails has slightly increased, this is likely due to work from the membership team to acquire more members' email addresses than before.

The email has open rate has actually increased during the second quarter of 2020, rising from approximately 30 % previously to nearer 33% for the quarter. This is especially encouraging as it indicated that recipients of the email are hopefully valuing the information it is delivering further. Although there is a lot of room to increase the open rate further it is still a positive number when compared to the industry average open rate for emails of 19%.

Demand for advertising space in the weekly Email Update continues to be high with the majority of available spaces already booked for 2020. Demand remains high for online advertising as it offers comparatively good click rates for adverts compared to other advertising methods.

Website

Visits to the NSA website decreased during the last quarter, to an average of 16,729 visits per month. People most frequently used the website to view UK sheep breeds in this period. Other frequently visited pages were Next Generation 'Starting your own flock' alongside Wales and Border Ram Sales online sales register.

Additionally, the Virtual Event website had 3,577 visits in total over the last quarter. Activity was concentrated in the month of August due to the 'Virtual celebration of sheep farming' taking place. August saw 3,092 of these visits from 1,863 users, generating 14,850 page views. Of these users 42% came to the site from social media, 39.6% from direct search, and 15.8% from a referral. Therefore social media promotion of the webinars made a positive impact on the number of visits to the site.

Social media

The past three months have seen the growth of NSA's social media pages.

At the end of the third quarter of 2020 the NSA Facebook page had 14,864 followers with Twitter having 12,470, this is a growth of 666 on Facebook and 164 on Twitter. The increase in this growth can be attributed to increased social media activity promoting webinars across this quarter.

Posts performed well across a range of topics. Posts relating to news or policy announcements attracted a lot of attention as did more light-hearted posts encouraging responses from users. Posts advertising the virtual events were also received by a large audience.

The top three performing Facebook posts for the quarter were:

1. 'Welsh government pledges to use British wool as insulation in public buildings'.
 - a. 35,958 reached
 - b. 1,451 people interacted with the post
2. "Farmers should give up trying to make money from shepherding and just plant trees instead" - NSA response to Sheffield University research.
 - a. 29,562 reached
 - b. 383 people interacted with the post
3. "Shoutout for the sheep dogs!" – encouraging users to share pictures of their sheep dogs.
 - a. 13,050 reached
 - b. 653 people interacted with post

The top three performing Twitter posts were:

1. "SCOPS launch internal parasite technical manual..."
 - a. 6,994 reached
 - b. 385 total engagements with the post
2. Petitioning the government to make British Wool insulation and carpeting mandatory in new buildings in UK
 - a. 5,696 reached
 - b. 195 total engagements with the post
3. "First virtual event is one week away!" Encouraging people to register.
 - a. 4,894 reached
 - b. 164 total engagements with the post

Public-facing activities

Love Lamb Week again took place at the beginning of September aiming to encourage consumers to eat more lamb, with the campaign this year focused on promoting its sustainable production methods to gain backing for the industry.

The success of Love Lamb Week 2020 however was tainted by the sad news of the untimely passing of the campaign's founder, popular Cumbrian sheep farmer Rachel Lumley, who died suddenly in July. Rachel began the campaign back in 2015, reacting to falling lamb consumption and depressed lamb prices she recognised a strategically planned promotion was needed to encourage people to put British lamb back on their dinner plates.

NSA worked with other industry representatives including AHDB, QMS, HCC, LMC and NFU to share positive messages associated with lamb production and consumption during the week and despite a reduced budget from AHDB for delivery of the campaign this year activity on social media was significantly increased meaning the promotional messages (such as the one shown below) reached many more potential consumers.



Farmer-facing meetings and activities organised / attended

With the ongoing current COVID situation, no farmer-facing meetings have been taking place but lots of virtual meetings/activities have been happening. With the second round of the virtual event just ending members and non-members had the opportunity of joining in a wide range of webinars. Data from all these webinars and the event has now been collated and the non-members will be receiving two targeted membership campaigns. Also, the non-members that attended more than five webinars over the event will have phone call campaign.

Other areas of NSA activity

NSA Next Generation

The ongoing Covid-19 pandemic continued to affect effective delivery of the Next Generation programme in the months of July, August and September. It had been hoped that restrictions would be lifted sufficiently to allow face to face activity to begin again but unfortunately this was not the case and it is now anticipated that this will recommence as early in 2021 as is safely possible.

NSA internal work / operations

Regional activities (to include NSA ram sales)

Wales and Border Ram Sale – report from Jane Smith

The Ram Sale Committee met via Zoom on 28th October and there was a definite air of positivity about the meeting. Given that we may still be operating within Covid restrictions alternative plans were formulated. The Early Sale will hopefully take place on the showground, but will be a purely business day with no breed shows and no trade stands. It will therefore operate under market conditions. If this is not possible it will be held at Brecon market, with the usual four auctioneers invited to attend. There is an adjacent furniture sale room at the mart which would accommodate visiting auctioneers.

The Main Sale will be more challenging but basically we are hoping we can do the sale on the showground, again no shows or trade stands. The Badger & Balwen Societies will be invited to sell on the Sunday, as we believe this will suit both vendors and buyers better. It was agreed that regardless of whether a breed was profitable or not to the Ram Sale all breeds should have the opportunity to sell at the sale.

Auctioneers and breed societies will be updated with our plans and a press release is due to go out today (30/10/2020).

The sale dates are 2nd August and 19th-20th September.

NSA Cymru/Wales – report from Helen Roberts

A zoom meeting took place in August when James Owen from WG updated us on the new schemes that will come into place after BPS and what the interim period may look like. NSA Cymru has responded to the WG consultation on simplification of the interim scheme.

Brexit and EU transition is discussed on a fortnightly basis with WG and they are working with DEFRA on some things but there does seem a lack of clarity on Border posts, health marks and residency.

Welsh Government has opened its extended testing facility for sheep scab in Wales with APHA. Examination of skin scrape samples from sheep showing suspect clinical signs of scab is now being offered free of charge in Wales between 2nd November 2020 and the 31st March 2021. The scheme will aid accurate diagnosis, which is a prerequisite for appropriate treatment and successful control of scab, which is a priority of the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework. This is disappointing as Welsh Farmers were told there was a ringfenced pot of 5 million to tackle sheep scab, this is now on the back burner.

Phil, Kate, and I met with NRW to discuss a planned update to the regulations for applying to dip disposal licence but there are no plans to change the fees at the moment.

Next meeting will be 19th Nov when details of the ARMM will be finalised.

Plans for NSA Welsh Sheep are starting to take place with stand bookings open for exhibitors to place an expression of interest booking. However, COVID rules will be monitored closely and a tele conf with the Local Authority is planned in early January.

Northern Ireland Region – report from Edward Adamson

N.I. closes for holiday in July so not much happens in July (we celebrate our culture although no celebrations this year!)

Meeting with UFU on N.I. Government Aid Package for Agriculture

N.I. Sheep Programme run by CAFRE

DAERA Agri-Environment Policy Development Engagement Event

N.I. Sheep Programme Event 2

August

Included in a newly formed group funded by DAERA Hill and Upland Beef and Sheep Group which will meet quarterly.

Formed to look at research into the environment and report to inform future Government on Agri environment policy

UK P & T Meeting

NSA Devolved Policy Catch up

September

Agrisearch Meeting to discuss proposals for a new Draft Strategy Plan

Regional Managers Meeting

Meeting with Daera on N.I. Protocol

Defra Meeting on N.I. Protocol

A long saga of zoom meetings and telephone calls about Netherlands and Belgium Departments of Agriculture refusing to recognise N. Ireland as an MV Region. Not resolved as yet

Hosted a Business Development Group debate on environmental issues which included on farm videos and the being central farmer in a 2.5 hour Zoom meeting with farmers

NSA Scotland Activity Report for NSA Board meeting – Wednesday 18th November 2020

Monday 03 August - Farming round table teleconference with organisations from across the sector attended by Grace Reid

Thursday 06 August – NSA Next Generation Ambassador policy update meeting attended by Grace Reid

Monday 10 August - Farming round table teleconference with organisations from across the sector attended by Grace Reid

Monday 17 August - Farming round table teleconference with organisations from across the sector attended by Grace Reid

Wednesday 12 August – NSA Board meeting attended by Aileen MacFadzean and Peter Myles

NSA AGM – attended by Aileen MacFadzean, Peter Myles, Jen Craig, Grace Reid, John Cameron

Monday 17 August - Farming round table teleconference with organisations from across the sector attended by Grace Reid

NSA Scotland Committee Meeting attended by Jen Craig, Maimie Paterson, Sybil MacPherson, Peter Myles, Aileen MacFadzean, Grace Reid, Euan Emslie, Mary Dunlop, John Fyall

Wednesday 19 August - Animal Health and General Welfare Stakeholders Group meeting attended by Grace Reid

QMS Cattle and Sheep Standards Setting Committee meeting attended by Grace Reid

Monday 24 August - Farming round table teleconference with organisations from across the sector attended by Grace Reid

Thursday 27 August - ARD Stakeholders Group meeting attended by Grace Reid

Monday 31 August - Farming round table teleconference with organisations from across the sector attended by Grace Reid

Wednesday 02 September – NSA UK Policy and Technical committee meeting attended by John Fyall and Grace Reid

Friday 04 September – NSA Regional Managers meeting attended by Euan Emslie and Grace Reid

Monday 07 September - Farming round table teleconference with organisations from across the sector attended by Grace Reid

Tuesday 08 September – Penalties and Inspections CAP Simplification and Improvement Scottish Government Teleconference attended by Maimie Paterson and Grace Reid

Wednesday 16 September – Meeting with Cabinet Secretary Fergus Ewing attended by Phil Stocker, Jen Craig, Maimie Paterson and Grace Reid

Thursday 17 September – Industry meeting sheep compensation scheme attended by Jen Craig

Monday 21 September - Farming round table teleconference with organisations from across the sector attended by Grace Reid

Wednesday 23 September – Scottish Parliament the Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee evidence session on Dogs (Protection of Livestock) (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill attended by Jen Craig

Friday 25 September - UK Internal Market Bill, UK Stakeholder Engagement meeting attended by Grace Reid

Monday 28 September – Scottish stakeholder discussion on Scottish Outdoor Access Code attended by Jen Craig, Maimie Paterson and Grace Reid
Farming round table teleconference with organisations from across the sector attended by Grace Reid

Wednesday 30 September - Animal Health and General Welfare Stakeholders Group meeting attended by Grace Reid

Thursday 01 October – UK Devolved stakeholders agricultural support frameworks meeting attended by Grace Reid

Friday 02 October – Nitrogen Balance Sheet for Scotland workshop (agriculture and land use) attended by Grace Reid

Tuesday 06 October - Nitrogen Balance Sheet for Scotland workshop (environment/waste) attended by Grace Reid

Friday 09 October - Nitrogen Balance Sheet for Scotland workshop (air) attended by Grace Reid

Monday 12 October - Farming round table teleconference with organisations from across the sector attended by Grace Reid

Wednesday 14 October – AHDB Post Covid webinar attended by Grace Reid

Thursday 15 October – Meeting with Patrick Krause (Scottish Crofting Federation) to discuss Scottish Commons attended by Phil Stocker and Grace Reid

Friday 16 October – NSA Regional Managers meeting attended by Euan Emslie and Grace Reid

Monday 19 October - Farming round table teleconference with organisations from across the sector attended by Grace Reid

Tuesday 20 October – NSA Scotland Executive Committee Member meeting attended by Jen Craig, Maimie Paterson, Sybil MacPherson, Peter Myles, Aileen MacFadzean, Grace Reid, Euan Emslie, Mary Dunlop

Thursday 22 October – NFUS Autumn Conference (Regional Land Use Partnerships) attended by Grace Reid

Friday 23 October – DEFRA GB Exports webinar attended by Grace Reid

Wednesday 28 October – ARD Stakeholders meeting attended by Grace Reid

Monday 02 November - Farming round table teleconference with organisations from across the sector attended by Grace Reid
NSA Scotsheep host meeting attended by Jen Craig and Euan Emslie

Tuesday 03 November – Agriculture and Climate Change Strategic Stakeholder Group meeting attended by Grace Reid

Thursday 05 November - David Duguid MP - Agricultural Sector Roundtable Discussion attended by Jen Craig

Monday 09 November – Farming for 1.5 interim report launch attended by Grace Reid
Farming round table teleconference with organisations from across the sector attended by Grace Reid

Tuesday 10 November - Animal Health and General Welfare Stakeholders Group meeting attended by Grace Reid

Thursday 12 November – AHDB Leaving the EU/Preparing for Brexit webinar attended by Grace Reid
Meeting with the Scottish Crofting Federation attended by Jen Craig, Maimie Paterson and Grace Reid

Monday 16 November - Farming round table teleconference with organisations from across the sector to be attended by Grace Reid

Tuesday 17 November - NSA Impact of Brexit on the UK's pedigree breed societies meeting attended to be attended by Grace Reid

Upcoming Meetings:

Wednesday 18 November – NSA Board meeting to be attended by Aileen MacFadzean and Peter Myles

Thursday 19 November – NSA Scotland Committee meeting to be attended by Jen Craig, Maimie Paterson, Sybil MacPherson, Peter Myles, Aileen MacFadzean, Grace Reid, Euan Emslie, Mary Dunlop, John Fyall

Monday 23 November - Farming round table teleconference with organisations from across the sector to be attended by Grace Reid

Tuesday 24 November – SHAWG Conference to be attended by Grace Reid

Monday 30 November - Farming round table teleconference with organisations from across the sector to be attended by Grace Reid

Thursday 03 December - ARD Stakeholders meeting to be attended by Grace Reid

Monday 07 December - Farming round table teleconference with organisations from across the sector to be attended by Grace Reid

Wednesday 09 December – UK Policy and Technical committee meeting to be attended by John Fyall and Grace Reid

Monday 14 December - Farming round table teleconference with organisations from across the sector to be attended by Grace Reid

Animal Health and Welfare General Stakeholders meeting to be attended by Grace Reid

Monday 21 December - Farming round table teleconference with organisations from across the sector to be attended by Grace Reid

Wednesday 13 January 2021 – NSA Scotland ARMM

Other significant external meetings – attended by Phil unless otherwise stated

August 3rd TDUG

4th Sheep dipping meeting

5th Elanco webinar

English committee

SMS project Board

6th EMLS Upland sub group

10th Pathway meeting

11th RDPE scab ITT

12th Board meeting

14th PSGHS meeting re MV etc

17th AHDB MI call

TDUG

19th ELMS

Meeting with Meat and Livestock Australia.

20th RoSA meeting with Welsh Gvt

DIT Trade AG meeting

21st LCAG

SAGG meeting

1st **Sept** Trade AG

Dipping group meeting

2nd AHDB reputation group

UK P&T meeting

3rd NFU net zero and Covid meeting

Ag Productivity Task Group meeting

4th LCAG

Regional managers

7th TDUG

9th SCOPS

10th RUMA Board and Alliance

15th Uplands Alliance meeting

16th Elms

UK farming organisations meeting

Meeting with Fergus Ewing

18th LCAG
21st TDUG
BMLUP meeting
22nd TDUG data sub group
23rd Int Trade Select committee evidence session
24th Carcass classification meeting
Dipping working group
Ruminant Health and welfare group
25th Trees and carbon interview
WG EU and Covid transition group
29th SHAWG
30th TDUG data sub group
October 2nd TDUG
5th TDUG
6th DIT Trade Ad Group
8th RTA TAC meeting
9th Trade Advisory Commission workshop on animal welfare
BMLUP SMS project Board
12th TDUG data sub group
14th ELMS group
16th LCAG
20th Meeting with Australian High Commission
Meeting with Bishop Fleming new auditors
21st Eastern region NSA committee
Sheep scab ITT planning meeting
23rd Welsh Govt transition group
TDUG data sub group
27th ELMS commons meeting
Zootechnics call Defra
28th SRUC wilding debate
English committee
TDUG data sub group
29th North Wyke research catch up
Sec of State Liz Truss
RoSA meeting with AIC
30th LCAG meeting
November 2nd TDUG
3rd Meeting with new sector director AHDB
ELMS discussion
4th FGP
Trade Advisory Group
Ruminant health and Welfare steering group
5th TDUG data group
NFU Cymru conference
6th Debate with Janet Hughes Director of Future Farming with NSA members
Trade Advisory Group meeting
Welsh Govt Transition group meeting
9th Meeting with Directors of rural division Welsh Govt
Agricultural Productivity task Force meeting
10th RTA Beef and Lamb Board meeting
UK Farming organisations meeting
BMLUP transition Board

11th SMS conference
Halal stakeholders group
Meeting with Tim Russ re live exports
12th Welsh Commons Forum AGM
Agri Food Trade Advisory Group
13th LCAG meeting
AHDB technical innovation group meeting
Royal Vet college meeting re SHEEP UK research meeting

Week commencing	Press releases in 2020 - Ellie	Press releases in 2020 - Katie	Social media reach on press release links - Facebook
06/07/20	1. Welsh Government future farming response	2. Online ram sale register launched 3. NSA ram sales *(SW and Eastern) continue	1. 1.9k 2. 5.6k 3. 1.8k
13/07/20			
20/07/20	1.NSA supports campaign to make better use of British Wool		1. 9.8k
27/07/20			
03/08/20		1. Launch of virtual sheep events 2020	1. 2.3k
10/08/20		1. Vacancy for Digital Communications Officer	1. 2.4k
17/08/20	1. Scottish Region tackle lynx consultation		1. 4.0k
24/08/20			
31/08/20		1. NSA responds to research calling for sheep farmers to take up forestry instead of farming	1. 29.6k
07/09/20		1. NSA states case for free trade negotiation continuation 2. NSA welcomes Welsh Govt pledge to use wool	1. 4.0k 2. 36.0k
14/09/20			
21/09/20		1. British lamb must not be sacrificed in future trade deals	1. 2.7k
28/09/20		1. NSA questions supermarkets' motives	1. 3.7k