



BVA written evidence on animal health for the Welsh Parliament's Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee

Who we are

- 1)** The British Veterinary Association (BVA) is the national representative body for the veterinary

targets to further reduce antibiotic usage in animal agriculture, as part of a global solution to address AMR.

- 8) AMR is a global problem and we support the 'One Health' approach to addressing it. Collaboration between the medical, veterinary and environmental stakeholders is a key element of the [UK 5-year action plan for antimicrobial resistance 2019-2024](#).
- 9) BVA is represented on the Wales Animal and Environment AMR delivery group and supports its [5 year implementation plan](#).
- 10) Welsh Government should:
 - incentivise improved husbandry and biosecurity measures on farm, within a system of government agricultural support. The involvement of veterinary surgeons will be essential to any such scheme.
 - prioritise the development of effective and d

seeking to protect and promote local traditional specialities.

Post-CAP agricultural policy

- 22) The new agricultural policy offers an opportunity to improve animal health and welfare in Wales, and should be both ambitious and focussed on delivering outcomes. It is crucial that this new policy offers the best opportunities to develop a strong, competitive and innovative food industry which enjoys the confidence of consumers at home and abroad, and is resilient to the potential changes in our relationships with trading partners following the UK's departure from the EU.
- 23) We are broadly supportive of the Welsh Government's 'Sustainable Land Management' policy framework, and were pleased that the proposals
- It is essential that
- animal health and welfare are central in any new agricultural policy and should feature more prominently.
- 24) The new Welsh Agricultural policy must make it clear that ensuring the health and welfare of sentient animals is important as a marker of social progress, as well as for the role it plays in achieving other sustainability objectives such as reducing AMR as an environmental benefit. Sustainable animal agriculture is defined as "animal agriculture carried out in a way that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability to meet the needs of the future". It should be undertaken in a way that is environmentally, ethically, and economically acceptable for consumers, producers, and wider society. Safeguarding the highest standards of health and welfare for production animals must be recognised as a key sustainability objective.
- 25) Under the One Health agenda, policies relating to sustainable animal agriculture must also address the use of natural resources and the protection and conservation of wild species, habitats, and biodiversity, in order to reduce the ecological footprint of animal agriculture as a whole. Changes in animal production and farming practices are necessary to increase the efficiency of agriculture and mitigate its environmental impact. In our [Sustainable animal agriculture position](#), we promote the benefits of properly valuing quality animal-derived products, where quality encompasses good animal health and welfare, food safety, environmental protection, a fair return for producers, and encourage consumers to [#ChooseAssured](#).
- 26) There is a large body of evidence supporting the environmental benefits of various aspects of livestock farming in Wales^{4,5,6,7,8}. These include carbon sequestration in grazing pastures, particularly leguminous pastures, reduction of methane emissions through disease eradication, increased productivity, reduced losses and increased feeding efficiency, and reduced food miles from consuming locally produced food.

Skuce

Recent research published by Oxford University demonstrates that ruminants can offer a viable pathway to net zero emissions from UK agriculture, in keeping with the target date of 2030, which is a key consideration with respect to any decision on which outcomes will be rewarded via direct payments. This research provides further evidence that UK ruminant agriculture can create positive Sustainable Land Management (SLM) outcomes.

27)

access to real time and stored footage for OVs.

Surveillance

- 34) The UK veterinary surveillance network is vital to identifying and managing threats to public health, trade, and wider society from animal diseases. Veterinary surveillance and animal health and disease monitoring is equally important across livestock, equine, wildlife, and companion animals.
- 35) Continued monitoring of new and emerging diseases through data collection, analysis, and sharing across species provides high-quality intelligence on animal health and welfare. This helps policymakers, veterinary professionals, and animal keepers to take decisions to improve animal health and welfare and productivity, as well as identify and

