

PSGHS NEWS

Premium Sheep and Goat Health Schemes

2025/26 Issue



- 2 New Member of the Marketing and Business Development Team
- 2 Thank You, Jonathan!
- 3 Enhancing Sheep Health Across the Nation
- 4 Access to Support for Endemic Disease Control
- 5. Overview of each Scheme – useful links
- 6 Popular Topics for members
- 7 Barriers to the sustainable control of parasites
- 8 Podcast
- 8 Events
- 8 Meet the Team



© SRUC 2025

PSGHS, SRUC Health Schemes, Greycrook, St Boswells, Roxburghshire TD6 0EQ
T: 01835822456 E: HealthSchemes@sruc.ac.uk W: www.sheepandgoathealth.co.uk
SRUC is a charity registered in Scotland, No. SC003712

PSGHS NEWS

We hope you enjoy reading our **PSGHS Newsletter** packed full of tips and advice to support your membership. We have enjoyed meeting some of you when out and about at various events around the country. It's hard to believe that show season is almost over as we head towards Autumn! In future we are planning to send you more regular quarterly news updates from the team so please look out for them in your inbox!

Please don't hesitate to contact me on alison.braddock@sruc.ac.uk if you have any suggestions for future topics or if you would like your flock to be promoted through a case study! **Alison Braddock**

New Member of the Marketing and Business Development Team



We are delighted to announce that **Rosalyn O'Sullivan** joined SRUC Veterinary Services in mid-May as our new Marketing and Business Development Officer.

Roz will be collaborating with Alison to enhance our marketing strategies and business development initiatives. You can expect to see Roz at various events throughout the show season, so be sure to stop by and say hello!

Roz brings a wealth of experience to our team, having previously worked with Nimrod Veterinary Products as Territory Sales Manager covering Wales, the Midlands, and East Anglia. Prior to that, she was Assistant Manager at Belmont Vets. Roz will be working from her base in Ross-on-Wye.

Roz's appointment follows John Scholefield's departure for new opportunities in computer coding.

We wish John all the best in his new venture and look forward to the exciting contributions Roz will bring to our team.

Thank You, Jonathan!

Jonathan Barber has stepped down from participating in the Premium Sheep and Goat Health Schemes Advisory Board. Jonathan has been a steadfast supporter of PSGHS since its launch following the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) awarding the schemes to SRUC (then SAC) in 1996.

Over the years, Jonathan has made significant contributions to many PSGHS Advisory Boards. Both he and his wife Carroll owned the oldest established flock of Charollais sheep in the country, the Crogham flock at Wymondham, Norfolk.

Jonathan's journey began in 1972 in France during a trip to select a Charollais heifer. This led to discussions about importing five Charollais ewe lambs, and a ram arrived on the family farm on Boxing Day 1976. The British Charollais Sheep Society was formed the following year, and Jonathan has been instrumental in its success ever since. Jonathan and Carroll sold their flock in an effort to slow down and enjoy life at a more leisurely pace.

We are thrilled to welcome Carroll onto the PSGHS Advisory Board as she is Breed Secretary of the Charollais Sheep Society. We look forward to continuing our close collaboration with her in the future.

Thank you, Jonathan, for your unwavering support and dedication. We wish you and Carroll all the best in your new chapter and are excited to work closely with Carroll in her new role.



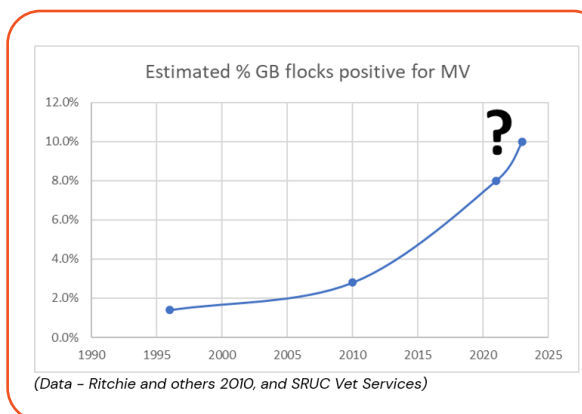
Jonathan in the middle with Alison Braddock and Peter Fairbank to the left and right.

Enhancing Sheep Health Across the Nation

The **PSGHS Monitoring Scheme**, established by SRUC, was set up to support sheep owners with commercial flocks in screening for **maedi visna (MV)** and **Johne's disease**.

So far we have around 50 members representing a range of sheep breeds across the country. This is an important option for flock owners as recent testing indicates an MV infection rate of approximately 10% within the national flock.

We are proud to have 3500 high value pedigree flocks in the MV and Johne's Disease Accreditation schemes as these animals play a crucial role in sheep breeding genetics and maintaining high health standards.



Our mission also extends beyond individual flocks. We aim to elevate the health status of the entire GB national flock, which comprises 31 million sheep and lambs across 72,000 flocks. We encourage people to check out the Health and Welfare Pathways of England, Scotland and Wales on page 4 and 5 of this newsletter and how farmers can benefit. By working together, we can ensure a healthier future for our sheep industry!

Benefits of PSGHS Monitoring

The schemes address two endemic 'iceberg' diseases: **maedi visna (MV)** and **Johne's disease**. These diseases are termed 'iceberg' because only a small proportion of a flock might show symptoms, while a much larger proportion is infected. Like an iceberg, the majority of the problem lies beneath the surface. Without testing, these diseases can be devastating to a farm's finances.

The stringent biosecurity requirements of the accreditation scheme may be a barrier for some, but the monitoring schemes offer a practical alternative. Regular monitoring provides an early warning to limit disease spread. While PSGHS Accreditation is the gold standard, the monitoring schemes provide a level of assurance for buyers looking to reduce disease risk. This is particularly useful for producers of breeding stock who want to reassure buyers.

Testing Protocols

Members of the monitoring scheme test three groups of animals:

1. **High-risk animals** at 12 per year for flocks below 500 animals or 20 per year for flocks over 500 animals.
2. **All rams** on the holding
3. **Added animals** not from a monitored or accredited flock, up to a maximum of 12 animals per holding of origin.



Samples are taken by a veterinary surgeon at least six weeks before animals are due to be sold. **High-risk animals for testing are selected by the vet, including those that are thinner, have raised poor lambs, or had a poor milk yield without other apparent reasons (such as lameness or dental disease).** The farm's vet will also conduct an annual appraisal of biosecurity measures. If disease is found, members can proactively manage it with their vet's help.

Membership and Pricing

Membership of the monitoring scheme is around £50 per year for one or both diseases, plus members benefit from discounted testing rates for each disease. Visit www.sheepandgoathealth.co.uk for more information.

If you are having to test your commercial flock to maintain the MV accredited status of your pedigree flock – you can join the Monitoring Scheme with your commercial flock. Check out the various government funded initiatives for endemic disease.



Access to Support for Endemic Disease Control

There are various ways that sheep farmers can access support for endemic disease and benefit from Government initiatives.

Preparing for sustainable farming –
Animal Health and Welfare Interventions



Animal Health and Welfare Pathway
(England) for Sheep



Livestock Animal Health



FAQ Animal Health and Welfare Pathway (England) for Sheep

Can I use the funding for endemic disease follow up to contribute towards my testing for Sheep and Goat Health Schemes?

The funding for the second phase of the Animal Health and Welfare Pathway – the endemic disease follow up – does allow for testing for MV and Johne's disease, meaning that funding could be used for PSGHS accreditation or monitoring testing.

However, the funding is designed to be utilised to investigate any issues or concerns relating to

health, welfare and production. In practice, this means that using the funding in this way is most suitable for someone who identifies, with their vet, as having an issue with Johne's disease or MV.

What submission forms should be used?

Diagnostic Submission forms should be used (not the PSGHS submission forms) but contact us to explain and note on the form and then you can apply for example to join the PSGHS Monitoring Scheme. Note however that you will have to do the

required number of animals to meet the criteria.

Is the SRUC Veterinary lab accredited for endemic disease follow up?

Yes, as we are a UKAS UK accredited approved laboratory for endemic disease testing within the Animal Health and Welfare Pathway (England) for e.g.

MV, Johne's Disease and BVD other diseases.

Please note however that we are not an approved lab for the worm egg counts!

Do I need a lab report to claim?

No but you do need a report from your vet.



Useful Links

We have provided an electronic quick reference guide for vets and farmers for each scheme available on our website under 'quick links for vets'.

Please click on the links below for an overview of the rules, testing requirements and biosecurity. Please refer to the full rules on our website for more comprehensive guidance.

PSGHS Monitoring Schemes (www.bit.ly/PSGHS_Monitoring)

Johne's Disease Accreditation (www.bit.ly/PSGHS_Johnes)

Scrapie Monitoring Scheme (www.bit.ly/PSGHS_Scrapie)

MV/CAE Accreditation Scheme (www.bit.ly/PSGHS_MV_CAE)

Don't forget to follow us on Social Media!

[fb.com/SRUCvets](https://www.facebook.com/SRUCvets) [@srucvets.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/srucvets.bsky.social) [srucveterinaryservices](https://www.instagram.com/srucveterinaryservices) [@SRUCVets](https://twitter.com/SRUCVets)



Popular topics members often ask about!

Maedi Visna / Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis Accreditation



Testing Turnaround Times

PSGHS turnaround times can take up to 17 working days due to our testing schedule so please factor that in if you need results in plenty of time for a show or sale and contact us if you have any concerns.

Premises check reminder

Premises checks are needed when adding additional land, establishing an MV/CAE Accredited flock/herd or relocating. Forms are available on our website (www.sheepandgoathealth.co.uk)

Adding animals reminders!

- Please ensure that all farm of origin details and dates of purchase are provided when submitting 'Point of Purchase' tests and 'Added Accredited' animals tests.
- When adding MV/CAE Accredited animals to your flock – animals should be tested at the point of purchase (although this is not

mandatory). **Animals MUST BE TESTED however 6–12 months after arrival.** This is because it can take up to 6 months for an infected animal to test blood positive.

Running Alpacas with sheep

- Alpacas don't get Maedi Visna (MV) so are ok to run with sheep. It is worth noting however that Alpacas can become infected with Johne's Disease.

Scrapie Monitoring Scheme

Members of the Scrapie Monitoring Scheme often ask about what results are accepted for Scrapie Genotyping. The only lab results accepted are either from APHA or SRUC as they are DEFRA approved laboratories. More information can be found at [Scrapie monitoring for export | SRUC](#)



Running a Show or Sale?

If you are planning to run a show or sale to include MV accredited sheep or CAE accredited goats, event organisers must complete an application and event

declaration by 30th April each year.

See our website for details: **IMPORTANT SCRAPIE MONITORING:** APHA is responsible for approving dedicated (all SMS animals) and segregated (SMS and non-SMS) shows and sales.

Contact your local APHA office to find out which events are approved.

Inspections for MV Accreditation Scheme

Did you know that we have a contract with a company called Hallmark who will inspect around 50 shows and sales and 80 farms each year. It is important that we protect the biosecurity and integrity of the schemes.

Inspectors will check biosecurity, farm boundaries and compliance with the rules of the scheme. They will call you to arrange a convenient time.

Barriers to the sustainable control of parasites

A team led by the University of Liverpool, and including researchers from SRUC, has been investigating the barriers to uptake of sustainable approaches to the control of gastro-intestinal nematodes in sheep.

Through discussions with livestock keepers across the United Kingdom and in consultation with veterinarians and SQPs, the team found that producers tended to see anthelmintic resistance as 'someone else's problem' rather than a problem for everyone. Some lacked confidence in new approaches (e.g. leaving some lambs or most ewes untreated) and, sometimes, in their ability to perform new tasks (e.g. use of faecal egg counting, FEC, equipment). Others sought support in helping to tailor general advice to the specifics of individual farms and flocks, such as taking into account other diseases and parasites present. Practical considerations, such as grazing availability, handling facilities and labour, were another barrier to breaking away from existing control programmes.

Recommendations were made, including:

- **Focus on the positives of adopting sustainable parasite control, such as improved productivity and better adaptability to changing weather conditions**
- **Facilitate peer-to-peer learning, farmers valued the experience of fellow farmers**
- **Avoid allowing pursuit of 'the perfect' to**

obstruct 'the good enough': even small changes can slow the onset of resistance

- **Make FEC accessible**

- **Refresh flock health planning with a focus on incremental improvements**

The support of all participants is gratefully acknowledged. For access to the report, please see: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.animal.2025.101506>.

This work was supported by BBSRC and the team involved researchers from University of Liverpool, SRUC, BioSS, Paul Crawford Vet Services, Moredun Research Institute, Queen's University Belfast, and Animal Health and Welfare Northern Ireland. For more information, contact: sam.beechener@sruc.ac.uk





Podcast

Subscribe to our
On the Hoof Podcasts.
www.bit.ly/SRUC_podcast



Health Schemes office team, based in St Boswells: (from left to right) Kirsty Douglas, Hilary Jackson, Rachel Hutchison, Lesley Crozier-Smith, Susan Wilson, Lisa Wilken.

Look for PSGHS
accredited stock
on the database
of members at
www.psghs.co.uk

Events

The Health Schemes Team support NSA events around the country as well as attending the Royal Highland Show, Royal Welsh Show and the Great Yorkshire Show with other SRUC Colleagues. Please let us know if you are organising a farm walk or event where SRUC Veterinary Services could be represented by either a trade stand or speaker.



The PSGHS Advisory Board met at Penrith the day before North Sheep!

The main purpose of the PSGHS Advisory Board is to act as a liaison point between SRUC's PSGHS and the sheep and goat industry by providing industry knowledge and first-hand experience to inform decision making.

The PSGHS Advisory Board members provide advice and guidance on industry trends and livestock production issues associated with animal health and certification. They meet face to face once a year with another annual Teams meeting.

We are grateful for the support from our Advisory Board members some of whom are pictured here from left to right: Barrie Turner (Suffolks), Becky Dykes (Dutch Spotted), John Yates (Texel), Marion Mcmillan (SRUC), Anne Seaton (SRUC), Roz O'Sullivan (SRUC), Phil Stocker (NSA), Zanna Dennis (LAA) and Alison Braddock (SRUC). Other members include Harriet Fuller (Vet), John Matthews (Vet and BGS), David Knowles (LLeyn), Carolle Barber (Charollais) and Caroline Robinson (SRUC) with input from the St Boswells Team Kirsty Douglas and Rachel Hutchison. We are looking forward to new members joining us at the next meeting.



Alison Braddock
Marketing and Business
Development
Manager



David Wilson
Veterinary Manager
SRUC Health
Schemes



Caroline Robinson
Veterinary
Investigation
Officer



Marion McMillan
Veterinary
Investigation
Officer



Rosalind O'Sullivan
Marketing and Business
Development
Officer



Heather Stevenson
Veterinary
Investigation
Officer