

WLBP Farmer Members Leading the way in understanding their Antibiotic Usage

The pioneering antimicrobial usage (AMU) calculator developed by Welsh Lamb and Beef Producers (WLBP) is leading the UK in antibiotic data collection.

Since spring 2022, WLBP has asked their members to work with their vet to collate data on their use of antibiotics using its web-based AMU calculator. The process collates data from the antibiotics prescribed by vet practices with data on stock numbers on farm to calculate the average antibiotic use. The process requires minimal input from members as it uses readily accessible data in place elsewhere.

Since launching the system, over 5,000 calculations have been collated, with over 2,500 of those recorded in 2023. WLBP has been extremely pleased by the positive response from farmers and the veterinary profession in Wales.

During the last six months, WLBP has been working in conjunction with many red meat and milk supply chains to assist them in understanding the average use of antibiotics within their respective groups.

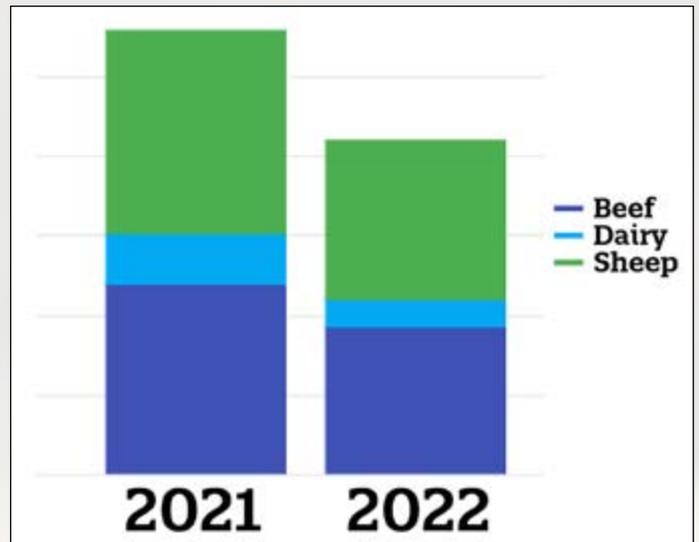
The calculations collected include dairy farms as well as beef and sheep units, so the data evaluated covers beef, lamb, and milk production. It's a one-stop shop that can generate data for lamb, beef and milk enterprises separately so mixed farms can provide data that any lamb, beef or milk supply chain may require, under the control and permission of the farmer securely.

There is currently a lot of discussion about sustainable farming and what that means. With a comprehensive data set on antibiotic use, WLBP can provide accurate information on the responsible use of medicine across livestock sectors.

"WLBP is developing its central database for antibiotic usage information in Wales," said WLBP General Manager Iestyn Tudur-Jones.

"One of our priorities for the FAWL scheme is to encourage farmers and vets to work with each other, not just to maintain high health and welfare standards for livestock but to generate the evidence that can validate any claim that we may need to make about how we produce our milk and red meat" added Mr Tudur-Jones.

"Our new AMU platform is part of that strategy. However, while we've found a solution to calculating the use of antibiotics on Welsh livestock farms, it's also important that we use the same model in supporting farmers in solving other challenges, such as environmental issues."



The farmer's vet does the calculation during the Annual Health and Welfare Review. Vets are seeing the benefits of calculating antibiotic usage alongside their review, which can all be done online on the WLBP Vet Portal.

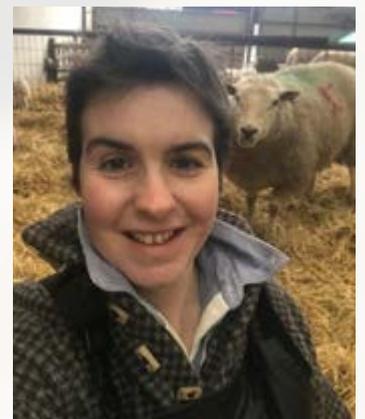
One of the vets is Frances Jones from Aeron Vets. She said, *"We at Aeron Vets have been using the online health and welfare review form for over a year.*

Thanks to the in-house training and telephone support offered by WLBP, all members of the veterinary team involved in day-to-day herd health planning feel confident and are competent to

complete the form digitally. This reduces paperwork generated when completed directly on the screen and also proves a very efficient way of sending completed reviews to WLBP as part of their FAWL scheme.

"We have found it very useful within the practice to have one central place where all previous reviews pertaining to that client can be accessed and considered when working on the current annual review.

"We have found the introduction of the AMU calculator to be a simple progression from the basic



Frances Jones
Aeron Vets



review and find the step-by-step process of information gathering helps us to generate a fully rounded picture of the enterprise, enabling us to hone our advice to the needs of each sector on that farm. The system allows us to generate effective data with very little hassle for antibiotic collation. It saves us much time in generating the antibiotic collation for our dairy clients, an essential part of Dairy Assurance Standards.

“We find the system so straightforward that we are trying to encourage our clients to allow us access to deliver their herd health planning via the portal as well, for many of the reasons already stated and for sheer ease of having a “live” document that both farmer and vet team can access to add/subtract from to give a true working herd health planning and monitoring document.

“The potential value for money aspect of the system for WLBP producers is massive, as digital record keeping becomes even more essential. That the vet practice can assist in this digital record keeping for the client is also a huge bonus, and long term we feel the project will be very beneficial to Welsh farming and veterinary enterprises.”

Aled Davies, who farms at Caio in Carmarthenshire, said “When reviewing my annual health plan with my vet, they also calculated my Anti Microbial Usage (AMU) at the same time. It was quick and easy using their records of

purchased medicines to calculate usage for different classes of stock.”

The ability to measure the use of antibiotics in a standardised way places the Welsh farming industry in a good position to provide evidence on the responsible way antibiotics are being used on Welsh farms. Early analysis from the beef, sheep and dairy data which has been collated and analysed, suggests that the usage in the sectors is responsible and in line with voluntary targets suggested by the industry.

WLBP will continue to work with vets and members to collate antibiotic usage in Wales during 2023. WLBP will publish the figures for antimicrobial usage for beef, sheep and dairy sectors in Wales later this year. This will allow the industry to understand the current position for usage and provide information that allows the industry to continue any improvements in the future.

For more information on the AMU Calculator, please contact WLBP on healthplan@wlbp.co.uk or by calling 01970 636688.



Aled Davies
Nantiwrch, Caio

FAWL scheme approved for Export Certification attestations to Europe and Northern Ireland

It will be business as usual for FAWL members looking to meet new export requirements under the EU Animal Health Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2016/429), which commence later this year - as membership of the assurance scheme complies with the new rules.

The new EU regulation will come into force from 13 December 2023 and means farms producing animals or products of animal origin or germinal products for export to the EU (or movements to Northern Ireland under the conditions of the Northern Ireland Protocol) have to be subject to ‘regular’ veterinary visits.

As we are now a ‘third country’ (a non-EU member), the new regulations apply, as they do when exporting

more widely. However, farmers only need to comply with this requirement if they provide relevant animals or products for export to the EU or movements to Northern Ireland.

WLBP are glad to confirm that being part of the FAWL scheme gives members the ability to comply with this new requirement as the scheme qualifies as a recognised assurance scheme.

Anyone falling outside the category of being part of a recognised assurance scheme must use the available time to either exclude their animals or products from EU export, join a recognised farm assurance scheme or obtain an appropriate veterinary declaration.

Chairman's Report 2023

Dear Fellow Member,

It gives me great pleasure to present my annual report to you once again. Overall, the year ended March 2022 was again a relatively turbulent year for Welsh livestock producers, with the prices paid for our outputs, particularly beef and lamb, generally improving compared to recent years. The global economy, however, remains precarious, facing high inflationary pressures fuelled by the war in Ukraine and, as witnessed, unprecedented rises in fuel and energy costs having a dramatic impact on farm input costs, with both animal feed and fertiliser prices rising dramatically. Food inflation has dramatically increased, which has improved the price of farm outputs, however this has been mitigated by the significant rise in our input costs.

Since our exit from the European Union, the Welsh Government has recently announced its plans to introduce the Sustainable Farming Scheme as a successor to the EU

Single Farm Payment (SFP). It is targeted at developing a greener attitude towards agriculture with a switch from our existing historical basis for the calculation of SFP to a new scheme based on sustainability. There is little doubt that this new arrangement will pose challenging to many, and it is likely that the amount of money available will be reduced. The introduction of the extremely challenging Water Resources Regulations 2021 for the whole of Wales will pose further challenges. As an industry, we must, therefore, not become complacent. We must continue to invest in our future and improve the marketability of our produce. Our highly competitive Farm Assurance Scheme remains a potent tool for us to achieve that, especially when consumers are becoming very selective in their purchases, particularly at the top quality end (which, of course, is where our Welsh Lamb & Welsh Beef products are positioned).

Our web-based Animal Health Planning Tool and Farm Management Software continues to be very well received, and this 'state of the art' software is available at no cost to you as a member. All you must do is register for its confidential use by visiting our website www.wlbp.co.uk.

WLBP is pleased to report that its work on gathering and analysing data on antibiotic usage and working with virtually all large animal veterinary practitioners across Wales is being widely acclaimed as the leading scheme in the UK. I would urge all our members to take advantage of this cutting-edge scheme as the world becomes more aware of the potential enormous threat to health from Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR). The supply chain in the UK is already very engaged with the AMR issue and is starting to ask their suppliers for assurances regarding their antimicrobial usage (AMU). Our AMU database is extremely well-placed to meet this challenge.

In July 2022, WLBP updated its Farm Standards, which have been uploaded onto our website and are available to all our members. It is essential that we keep ahead of the game to ensure that our members have maximum marketing opportunities at home and overseas available to them. Our farm assurance scheme is currently as "good as it gets". It is fully compliant with all European assurance standards and is fully accredited by the United Kingdom Accreditation Society (UKAS).

I am proud to report this year again that we consistently offer the most cost-effective farm assurance scheme in the UK, and it is pleasing to note the supply chain is checking the farm assured status of its supply chain daily using our sophisticated computerised online checker. This activity should provide clear evidence to our members of the value



David Bebb Evans
WLBP Chairman

Benefits of being a member of FAWL:



- WLBP strives to strengthen consumer confidence by providing assurance of farm standards through the Farm Assured Welsh Livestock Beef and Lamb Scheme (FAWL).
- As a member of FAWL, you will be able to market your livestock with the assurance that FAWL certification provides and be confident that you are contributing to the improved marketing of Welsh Beef and Welsh Lamb.
- Due to earned recognition from Food Standards Agency, you are less likely to be assessed by local authorities relating to feed.
- FAWL is becoming an important link in the supply chain, and an increasing number of processors insist that stock is procured from FAWL farms. FAWL gives producers an opportunity to provide proof of their expertise and integrity.
- FAWL members have access to online farm records - a farmer friendly software recording platform which you may link to BCMS/EID Cymru to record movements. All FAWL templates are available, including medicine records. It's the one-stop shop for record-keeping for Welsh farmers! We also provide support to set up your farm records – win, win!
- Earned recognition with the Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use (CRRU) means that FAWL members do not need to gain additional qualifications to buy second-generation anti-coagulation rodenticides (rat poison).
- An annual health and welfare review, along with the AMU calculation, provides technical & practical information on your herd/ flock health status.
- FAWL qualifies as a recognised assurance scheme which allows members to comply with the new requirement for Export Certification attestations to Europe and Northern Ireland.

of our assurance scheme in accessing market opportunities.

In keeping with previous years, our Annual Report is now filed on our website instead of printing and posting out to our current 7,000+ members. We will, of course, send a hard copy to anyone who requests one. I hope you agree that this is a sensible, cost-effective and environmentally friendly move which we will utilise more. I wish to take this opportunity to thank my fellow board members for their ongoing hard work, support and loyalty over the year, the staff who administer the scheme in their efficient and pleasant manner and to thank you as our member for your continued support. I am confident we will be able to offer you more marketing opportunities and a lower risk profile against potentially expensive statutory compliance audits through earned recognition.

Welsh Lamb & Beef Producers Ltd

Extracts from Financial Statement
Year Ending 31/03/2022

Statement of Comprehensive Income

	£000s	£000s
	2022	2021
Turnover	1569	1438
Cost of Sales	1480	1341
Gross Profit	89	96
Other Operating Income	292	11
Total profit	381	107
Administration & IT Costs	301	136
Operating Surplus / (Deficit)	80	(29)
Tax on Surplus/ (Rebate)	2	(1)
Surplus / (Deficit) for the Year	78	(28)

Statement of Financial Position as at 31/03/2022

Assets		
Non current Assets		
	42	169
Current Assets		
Debtors (falling due within 1 Year)	693	129
Cash at Bank	1077	1116
Total Assets	1812	1414
Equity & Liabilities		
Equity		
Share Capital	2	2
Retained Earnings	740	662
Liabilities		
Creditors (falling due within 1 Year)	1069	749
Deferred Tax	1	1
Total Equity & Liabilities	1812	1414

Postponing within less than 24 hours – please think twice

Everyone involved in agriculture is aware of the pressure and time constraints that farmers have to adhere to, and there are always deadlines to reach. The pressure to complete and arrange activities can lead to difficulties in adhering to appointments that have been pre-arranged with assessors who visit your farm. There are times when an emergency or something out of one's control raises its head which means members have to postpone their farm assessment at very short notice. We accept that these circumstances are sometimes unavoidable. However, we'd like to make it clear that if a farm assessment gets postponed within less than 24 hours of when an assessment is due without a valid reason, you may incur a charge for the postponement. If you need to postpone an assessment you've already agreed to, please contact your farm assessor or the certification office at least 24 hours before the agreed date and time of assessment.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that an Annual General Meeting of Welsh Lamb & Beef Producers Ltd will be held virtually via the Teams platform on 30/05/2023 at 1pm. If you wish to receive a Teams link, please contact the office.

To consider and if thought fit to approve the following:

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 To receive a report from the chairman, Mr David Bebb Evans
- 3 To receive and approve the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2022*
- 4 To appoint directors – Mr Wyn Evans retires by rotation and is eligible for re-election**
- 5 To approve Whittingham Riddell as Reporting Accountants

* Copies of the annual accounts are available on the society's website (www.wlbp.co.uk) or for a hard copy, please contact the office on 01970 636688

** If you wish to make a nomination to the board, please forward the name and address of the member to: WLBP Ltd, PO Box 8, Gorseland, North Road, Aberystwyth supported by the signatures of 10 other WLBP members



Antibiotic Resistance feedback survey

We are looking for farmers' feedback on the issue of Antibiotic Resistance (AMR). If you farm sheep or cattle in Wales, then fill out this survey for a chance to win £30.

The survey can be found through the following QR code:



The survey is being carried out by Miller Research, who have been commissioned to deliver the external evaluation of Arwain DGC; a programme designed to tackle antimicrobial resistance in sheep and cattle through improving knowledge exchange within the sector and the understanding of AMR.

A day in the life of a FAWL assessor

As part of FAWL's certification scheme, members will, from time to time, be visited by one of our understanding and competent assessors. There are around 30 assessors spread across Wales. Here we take a glimpse into the life of one of our experienced assessors, Emyr Williams, who works in North Wales.

Emyr says, "I come from the small village of Betws Gwerful Goch near Corwen, I am married to Glesni, and we have four daughters. I have been a FAWL and Quarantine Unit scheme assessor since 2015. For me, it is a part-time job alongside farming, where we keep sheep and beef cattle.



Emyr Williams, FAWL Assessor

The job has developed quite a lot during the eight years I have done it. When I started, everything was done on paper. The assessments were sent to us to complete and return. Now, however, everything is electronic, with every assessor having an iPad, and the work is sent to us digitally. Therefore, we can download a farm's details and immediately arrange and confirm a specific assessment with the farmer. Also, during the assessment, the report can be completed and then signed by the farmer electronically.

Where possible, I try and complete three assessments a day – spreading them at intervals throughout the day. You have to be flexible though, and I try and split each assessment fairly evenly between taking a hands-on look around the farm and paperwork. It is important to understand the farm system well to be able to make a fair assessment. I am a great believer in trying to see a good percentage of stock and chatting with the member when going around, which is often more relaxing for the farmer.

Arranging an appointment for the assessment is probably one of the biggest challenges of my work. Agriculture is like most businesses, and information needs gathering and assessments have to be made - and members of FAWL will know that task comes every 18 months.

But members needn't fret, and my message, along with my fellow assessors, is **'Please don't worry when you get a call from us; we are normal people'**.

I always try to outline what I will need to see, and calm any concerns the member may have. This often happens when there are any changes within the scheme which the member has perhaps heard about but not fully understood. It's important to remember that there is an opportunity to complete any recommendations raised for a period after the assessment, and some can be completed by the next assessment.

I have met many characters over the years and have been welcomed by the vast majority of those I have

assessed. One story that springs to mind is when I was completing an assessment in the Bala area and travelling with the farmer in the pick-up from one piece of land to another near the town. I had been out to close a gate, and after re-starting, the farmer was stopped by the police. The farmer denied he'd been driving too quickly, and the policeman agreed – and then fined me and the farmer for not wearing a seat belt! An expensive lesson for both of us.

I love chatting with farmers, and I hope they see me as fair and that I treat everyone the same. I have seen a very high standard of stock over the years and farmers

who do their work with great pride. Indeed, I have learned many good practices that have been useful to me at home!

It is true to say that agriculture will have to overcome many challenges in the future as people become more interested in where and how their food is produced.

I am sure that Welsh farmers will adapt, as we have done over the past decades, and respond positively to these challenges. The FAWL scheme will play a key role in this by confirming the standards by which we farm in Wales.

I want to thank you all for the welcome and cooperation I have received on your farms over the years."

Did you know that we provide organic certification?



WLBP provides organic certification for producers, processors and approved inputs. Our fees are competitive and transferring your organic certification to us from other Control Bodies is simple. Whilst carrying out our organic inspections, we can also provide joint inspections for FAWL, PWAB (Produced Without Antibiotics), Red Tractor Dairy, Soil Association equivalence for pigs and poultry, and Quarantine Units.

If you would like an informal chat about The Welsh Organic Scheme, please give us a call or email organic@wlbp.co.uk.

The Water Resources (Control of Agricultural Pollution) (Wales) Regulations 2021: Risk Maps in 3 easy steps!

From 1 January 2023, all farms on which organic manure is spread must have an up-to-date Risk Map. Creating a map is simple; you just need a map of a suitable scale, e.g. 1:2,500, 1:5,000, or 1:10,000, coloured pens and your field knowledge!

Whilst some of the required information may already be contained in your Manure Management Plan, Risk Maps bring new requirements.

Step 1. On the map, you must show the following:-

- Each field, with its area in hectares.
- All Surface waters.
- Any boreholes, springs or wells on the holding or within 50m of the holding boundary,
- Areas with sandy or shallow soils.
- Land with an incline greater than 12 degrees - equivalent to 20 degrees, or "1 in 5".
- Land within 10m of surface waters or within 50m of a borehole, spring or well.
- Land drains (other than a sealed impermeable pipe).
- Sites suitable for temporary field heaps of any manure - if this method of storing is to be used.
- Land with a low run-off risk - if that land is used when calculating slurry storage requirements. Low-Risk land is ground that has an average slope of fewer than 3 degrees, does not have land drains (other than a sealed impermeable pipe) and is at least 50m from a watercourse or conduit leading to a watercourse.

Step 2. You should identify (in red) watercourses and areas where you cannot spread - usually 10m either side of a watercourse or 50m of a spring, well, or borehole.

The use of precision spreading equipment - i.e. a trailing shoe, dribble bar, or injector system can allow organic manures, including slurry, to be spread to just 6m away from surface water, but the land within 6m of surface water must then be identified on the Risk Map. It

is recommended these areas be identified by cross-hatching.



Step 3. You will need to identify and colour (in orange) the areas where you need to assess the risks of spreading organic manure, such as areas of sandy or shallow soil, land with a slope of more than 12 degrees, areas with land drains (other than sealed impermeable pipes). Land with a Low-run-off risk and used in calculating slurry storage requirements also needs to be identified on the map - in a colour of your choice.

You've now completed all the "must-do's" for the Risk Map. If you wish, you can identify other non-spreading areas, such as tracks and buildings, or include areas where spreading can only occur under certain conditions or where rates should be restricted.

Remember that you must record changes on the Risk Map within three months.

For more guidance, please visit <https://www.gov.wales/water-resources-control-agricultural-pollution-wales-regulations-2021-guidance-farmers-and-land>

Online Farm Records Software available to all WLBP members (FAWL, Dairy, and Welsh Organic scheme)



- Linked to BCMS and EID Cymru
- Movements automatically inputted into Flock and Herd registers
- Medicine purchases and treatments (including collation of antibiotic usage)
 - Automatic updates
 - Reduces paper work
- FAWL Management Record Book
 - Health Plan
- Ongoing free support



Register at: <https://farmrecords.wlbp.co.uk/WLBP/Default.aspx>

For further information contact: 01970 636688 or healthplan@wlbp.co.uk