

Animal Welfare Management Programmes

TAIEX Belgrade
24-25 March 2010

Andrew Voas BVM&S MRCVS
Scottish Government Veterinary Adviser



The Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba





WOLF

Scotland in the UK

- Part of United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
- Animal health and welfare are devolved to the Scottish Parliament



The Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

Scottish livestock

- 26 thousand holdings
- 460 thousand beef cattle
- 185 thousand dairy cattle
- 4.6 million sheep
- 390 thousand pigs
- 13.6 million poultry





Background

- Animal Welfare Management Programme one of 23 Land Managers' Options in Scottish Rural Development Programme – others include quality assurance schemes, grazing agreements, access and environmental improvements.
- The aim is to support livestock producers to adopt and continually improve high standards of animal welfare over a 5 year programme
- Develops a simpler health planning scheme from 2005



The Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

EU requirements

- Part of Pillar II support for economic, social and environmental improvements allowed under the Common Agricultural Policy Rural Development Regulation (Reg EC No.1698/2005)
- Provides a public benefit
- Payment for cost of activity or income foregone
- Must go beyond normal legal compliance
- Must be a five-year commitment



Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1974/2006

Article 27

- preventing pathologies due to farm practice
- improving housing conditions
- increasing outdoor access
- absence mutilations/isolation/permanent tethering
- providing feed and water closer to natural needs.



Underlying aims

- Get vets onto farms
- Introduce the Welfare Quality criteria
- Collect benchmarking information

- Practical welfare improvements on farms through supported activities



Changes in veterinary practice

- Decline in farm animal emergency work
- Reduced income from medicine sales
- Reduced numbers of large animal vets
- Need to charge for providing advice



Welfare Quality

- EU-wide project to:
- Agree on-farm, animal-based welfare assessment indicators
 - Validate these
- Provides EU standard welfare assessment protocols
 - facilitates future labelling



Search

News

Project overview

New initiatives 07

News

Electronic newsletter

Research results

Scientific Publications

Fact sheets (popular)

Popular articles

Stakeholder conferences

Calendar

FAQ

Training and Mobility

Contact

Links



2009/1
The co
held or
cast of
Powerl



2009/1
Asses
develo
types')
metho
inform
animal welfare). The Asses



2009/1
Eskil E
confere
accour

2009/09/09 **Europarl**
Welfare Quality presents the
Conservation of Animals. Mi
results on the overall asses

Welfare Quality principles and criteria

Good feeding

- 1. Absence of prolonged hunger**
- 2. Absence of prolonged thirst**

Good housing

- 3. Comfort around resting**
- 4. Thermal comfort**
- 5. Ease of movement**

Good health

- 6. Absence of injuries**
- 7. Absence of disease**
- 8. Absence of painful procedures**

Behaviour


- 9. Expression of social behaviours**
- 10. Expression of other behaviours**
- 11. Good human-animal relationship**
- 12. Positive emotional state**

Benchmarking

- Recording of diseases and conditions
- Entered by vets onto database –Animal Welfare Monitoring and Benchmarking System
- Public access to summary reports at <https://www.animalhealthscotland.gov.uk/>



Animal Welfare

MONITORING  BENCHMARKING SYSTEM

Login

[Register](#) [Reset Password](#) [FAQs](#) [Useful Links](#) [Reports](#) [Help](#)

Welcome

Monitoring the occurrence of health and welfare problems on-farm is a fundamental part of taking a proactive approach to animal welfare. Recording Benchmarking measures and analysing them using the Animal Welfare Monitoring and Benchmarking System, will help you to:

- Highlight and analyse health and welfare issues on a farm that may be preventing herds or flocks reaching their true potential and propose solutions
- Monitor progress in improving health and welfare on a farm over time and demonstrate the impact of actions taken
- Benchmark health and welfare on a farm against similar farms across Scotland
- Feed information back into health and welfare planning

At a national level the database will also provide a source of data on Scottish livestock health and welfare that has not previously been collected, giving us:

- The ability to monitor health and welfare trends on a local and national level using anonymous data.
- The ability to provide anonymous data for research into health and welfare issues

In the long term, these facilities will help us all to identify and tackle health and welfare issues on a national scale, reducing disease risks to individual farms in the process.

Login

User Name:

Password:

[Login](#)

[Register](#)

[Forgotten your password?](#)


Guidance

[Guidance notes for Farmers](#)

[System Help for Veterinary Practices](#)

Contacts

[Scottish Government](#) 

[SAC Health Planning Support Manager](#) 



For problems or assistance with the site e-mail: AHWMP@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

V1.4.1 21/10/2009

[FAQs](#) [Useful Links](#) [Help](#)

Indicator - Pooled Data - Time Span Report Parameters

Fields marked ● require an entry.

Country	<input type="text" value="Scotland"/>
Regional Split	<input type="text" value="South West"/>
Region	<input type="text" value="AYRSHIRE"/>
County	<input type="text"/>
Enterprise Type	● <input type="text" value="Dairy Herd"/>
Land Type	<input type="text" value="Lowland"/>
Land Use	<input type="text" value="Intensive"/>
Breed Type	<input type="text" value="Pure Holstein Friesian"/>
Offspring Born	<input type="text"/>
Housed Over Winter	<input type="text"/>
Enterprise Size	<input type="text"/>
Replacement Policy	<input type="text"/>
Working Milk Yield	<input type="text"/>
Start Breeding Year	● <input type="text"/>
End Breeding Year	● <input type="text"/>
Period Frequency	● <input type="text"/>
Indicator	● <input type="text"/>



Country

Regional Split

Region

County

Enterprise Type

Land Type

Land Use

Breed Type

Offspring Born

Housed Over Winter

Enterprise Size

Replacement Policy

Working Milk Yield

Start Breeding Year

End Breeding Year

Period Frequency

Indicator

Scotland

- 2000-2009 Calving index
- 2000-2009 % barren cows
- 2000-2009 % neonatal death
- 2000-2009 % young stock mortality rate
- 2000-2009 % Weaned
- 2000-2009 % heifer/steer mortality
- 2000-2009 % Incidence of mastitis
- 2000-2009 % Incidence of scour 0-3 weeks
- 2000-2009 % Incidence of scour 4 weeks – 6 month
- 2000-2009 % Incidence of milk fever
- 2000-2009 % Incidence of hypomagnesaemia
- 2000-2009 % abortions
- 2000-2009 % stillbirth
- 2000-2009 % other deaths
- 2000-2009 % caesareans
- 2000-2009 % other vet assisted calving
- 2000-2009 % other assisted calvings
- 2000-2009 % adult mortality
- 2000-2009 % culling rate
- 2000-2009 % Incidence of lameness
- 2000-2009 % Incidence of respiratory disease
- 2010- Calving index
- 2010- % barren cows
- 2010- % neonatal death
- 2010- % young stock mortality rate
- 2010- % Weaned
- 2010- % heifer/steer mortality
- 2010- % Incidence of mastitis
- 2010- % Incidence of scour 0-3 weeks

Back > Run Report

Selected Report Parameters:

Parameter	Description
Enterprise Type	Beef Breeding Herd
Start Year	2008

	2008			2009		
	Top	Average	Bottom	Top	Average	Bottom
% of cows & heifers calving within first 3 weeks of calving period	69.46	46.58	18.03	68.44	45.24	15.50
% of cows & heifers calving within second 3 weeks of calving period	41.36	28.25	7.56	40.90	28.11	7.19
% of cows & heifers calving within third 3 weeks or later of calving period	44.08	25.17	2.20	45.95	26.66	3.38
% calving	117.08	82.49	26.27	106.19	79.29	32.20
% barren cows	21.03	8.91	0.00	21.76	9.03	0.00
% neonatal death	28.36	11.41	0.00	17.92	7.16	0.00
% young stock mortality rate	9.71	3.87	0.00	52.67	20.62	0.00
% Weaned	121.73	99.40	61.48	464.37	233.48	66.33
% heifer/steer mortality	9.39	3.74	0.00	9.08	3.55	0.00
% Incidence of mastitis	7.14	2.87	0.00	6.36	2.56	0.00
% Incidence of scour 0-3 weeks	22.87	9.12	0.00	13.41	5.24	0.00
% Incidence of scour 4 weeks – 6 month	8.55	3.41	0.00	10.44	4.08	0.00
% Incidence of milk fever	2.66	1.07	0.00	0.97	0.39	0.00
% Incidence of hypomagnesaemia	2.82	1.13	0.00	2.40	0.96	0.00
% abortions	2.78	1.10	0.00	2.76	1.07	0.00

% neonatal death	28.36	11.41	0.00	17.92	7.16	0.00
% young stock mortality rate	9.71	3.87	0.00	52.67	20.62	0.00
% Weaned	121.73	99.40	61.48	464.37	233.48	66.33
% heifer/steer mortality	9.39	3.74	0.00	9.08	3.55	0.00
% Incidence of mastitis	7.14	2.87	0.00	6.36	2.56	0.00
% Incidence of scour 0-3 weeks	22.87	9.12	0.00	13.41	5.24	0.00
% Incidence of scour 4 weeks – 6 month	8.55	3.41	0.00	10.44	4.08	0.00
% Incidence of milk fever	2.66	1.07	0.00	0.97	0.39	0.00
% Incidence of hypomagnesaemia	2.82	1.13	0.00	2.40	0.96	0.00
% abortions	2.78	1.10	0.00	2.76	1.07	0.00
% stillbirth	8.87	3.71	0.00	10.87	4.50	0.00
% other deaths	3.79	1.50	0.00	4.07	1.58	0.00
% caesareans	5.49	2.21	0.00	5.32	2.13	0.00
% other vet assisted calving	8.67	3.49	0.00	6.64	2.67	0.00
% other assisted calvings	42.13	19.11	0.00	38.83	18.30	0.00
% adult mortality	7.21	2.93	0.00	8.04	3.23	0.00
% culling rate	23.35	10.93	0.00	15.89	7.40	0.00
% Incidence of lameness	19.74	8.03	0.00	15.37	6.19	0.00
% Incidence of respiratory disease	12.36	4.91	0.00	77.45	29.95	0.00

Report produced: 22/03/2010

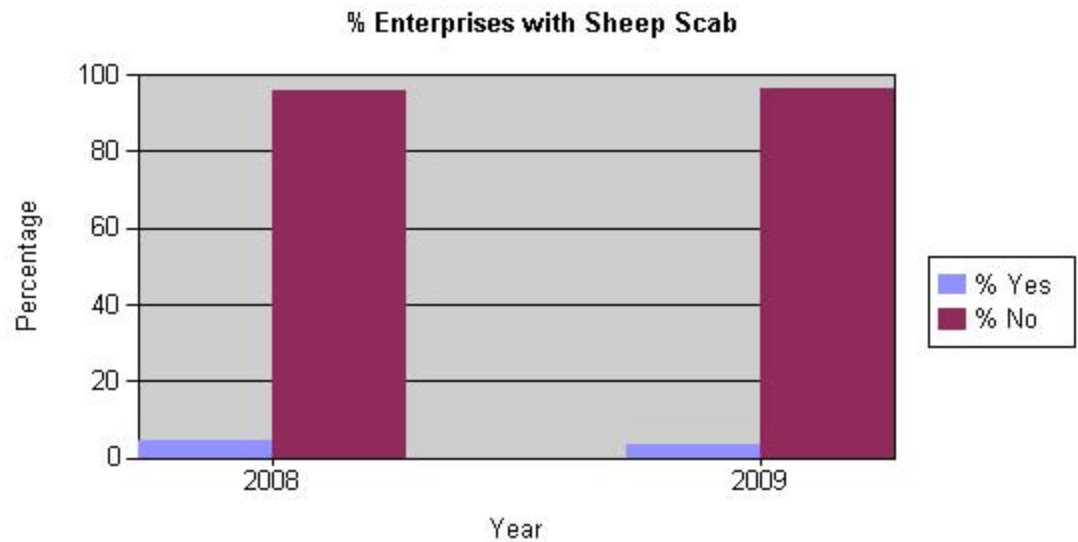


AWMBS Sheep Scab - Pooled Data - Time Span

Selected Report Parameters:

Parameter	Description
Country	Scotland
Enterprise Type	Sheep Breeder/Finisher Flock
Start Year	2008
End Year	2009
Frequency	Annually

Year	% Yes	% No
2008	4.35	95.65
2009	3.70	96.30



Animal Welfare Management Programme Process

Eligible businesses:

- Land managers in Scotland with a minimum of 5 Livestock units (5 cows/34 sheep)
- A five year commitment
- Standard payment for actions
- Cattle, sheep, goat keepers only



The Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

Commitment by producer

- 1a) An animal welfare review
- 1b) Animal welfare monitoring and benchmarking
- 1c) An animal welfare management plan (health plan)

- 2) A minimum of 3 specific actions to improve welfare (select from 10 options)



1a) Animal Welfare Review

Each year farmer and vet must

- consider disease risks and their potential impact on livestock welfare
- Review welfare using Welfare Quality criteria
- Identify potential opportunities to improve welfare



1b) Monitoring and benchmarking

Record and pass data to vet for entry in the Animal Welfare Monitoring and Benchmarking System to investigate:

Impact of actions taken on welfare
Specific areas of weakness and targets to aim for



The Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

1c) The management plan - to be produced by vets

- Use of routine mutilations
- Feeding (type and timing) and planned changes
- Biosecurity arrangements
- Agreed specific actions to improve welfare
- Planned schedule of prophylactic treatments
- Schedule for treating any non-notifiable diseases



Payment for compulsory element

- 1a) Annual welfare review
- 1b) Annual completion of welfare monitoring and benchmarking
- 1c) Annual management plan

For all 3 - Annual payment £137 in total.



The Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

Voluntary activities (at least 3)

1. Biosecurity
2. Reducing mutilations in sheep
3. Maintaining body condition
4. Preventing lameness
5. Mastitis control
6. Pneumonia and diarrhoea
7. Liver fluke
8. Johnes Disease control
9. Bovine Viral Diarrhoea
10. Sheep scab control



Voluntary Action 1 - Biosecurity

- Procedures for sourcing livestock that minimise risk of bringing in disease
- Isolation facility & records of use
- Protocol for receiving new stock to include:
 - Appropriate period of isolation and agreed observations
 - Foot bathing
 - Vaccination against diseases known to exist on the farm
 - Faecal sampling and if appropriate dosing for parasites
 - Blood sampling for BVD, IBR, Johne's disease (at least one)
- Procedures to reduce risk of staff and visitors bringing disease onto the farm (signage, info pack etc.)
- Disinfection procedures (signage, info pack etc)
- **Annual payment : £372**
Separation Facility: up to 5 hectares -£30/ha or £150



Voluntary Action 2 – Reducing mutilations in sheep

- Eliminate all routine tail docking and castration, except in specific instances where your vet considers that not undertaking them would compromise animal welfare.
- **Likely to require a change in livestock management** (for example, separating ewes and lamb rams) or breeds (for example flock composition or stocking density, clipping tails to prevent fly strike) to alleviate the management or welfare problems for which these mutilations were previously a solution
- Ensure that any remaining procedures deemed necessary by your vet are performed by someone trained in the procedure by a vet
- **Annual payment : £285**



The Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

Voluntary Action 3 – Maintaining Bodily Condition

- Breeding cows, heifers, sheep and gimmers only. Not finishing animals.
- Training in condition scoring from a vet in year 1
- Condition score **all breeding females** 6-8 weeks before breeding and 6-8 weeks before calving/lambing, record results and assign feeding groups as necessary
- Condition score **a sample** of breeding females at times shown in table (minimum of 50 dairy cows, 25 beef cows, 50 ewes)
- Obtain, record and implement advice from the vet on the type and timing of supplementary feeding (at least 95% between 1.5 and 4.0 at all times; and at least 75% between the following ranges



Voluntary Action 3 – Maintaining Bodily Condition

Dairy Cows	Cows	Heifers
Pre-calving	2.5 – 3.0	2.5 – 3.0
Pre-service	2.0 – 3.0	2.0 – 2.5
Drying off	2.5 – 3.0	

Suckler Cows and Heifers	Autumn Calving	Spring Calving	Summer Calving
At calving	2.5 – 3.0	2.5 – 3.0	2.5 – 3.0
At service	2.5 – 3.0	2.5 – 3.0	2.5 – 3.0
At turnout	2.0 – 2.5	2.0 – 2.5	2.0 – 2.5
At start of winter	2.5 – 3.0	2.5 – 3.5	2.5 – 3.0

Sheep	Lowland ewes	Hill ewes
Mating	3.0 – 3.5	2.5 – 3.0
Lambing	2.0 – 2.5	2.0 – 2.5

- **Annual payment : £383**



The Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

Voluntary Action 4 – Preventing lameness

- Foot bathe all adult livestock
 - sheep, beef cattle, goats – at least twice yearly
 - dairy cattle – monthly
- Undertake training in footrot/locomotion scoring
- Undertake regular lameness scoring and initiate appropriate treatment
- Locomotion Score: Dairy monthly, Beef twice yearly
- Footrot Scoring sheep – twice yearly
- Physical foot inspection of all adult livestock is carried out twice in the scheme year - foot trimming where necessary
- **Annual payment : £424**



The Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

Voluntary Action 5 – Mastitis control

- Dairy cows only
- Monthly:
 - Individual cow cell count
 - Veterinary investigation of all cases $>250,000$ cells/ml for more than one consecutive month
- At least once per year:
 - Undertake a veterinary visit during milking to investigate any hygiene deficits contributing to mastitis
 - Examine cubicles, bedding, floors, hygiene etc.
 - Address any problems identified



Voluntary Action 5 contd – Mastitis control

- During each scheme year
 - Have at least 2 visits from milking machine maintenance contractors
- **Annual payment : £372**



Voluntary Action 6 – Pneumonia and diarrhoea

- When there is an outbreak:
 - take faecal samples from a selection of animals affected by diarrhoea
 - take swabs and/or blood samples from a selection of animals affected by pneumonia
- Ensure lab analysis of samples to identify cause of outbreak.
- Reduce stocking density, increase ventilation and/or carry out treatment/Vaccination as appropriate.



Voluntary Action 6 – Pneumonia and diarrhoea

- Lungworm surveillance programme:
 - Monthly bulk milk antibody check for lungworm in dairy cows from August to January inclusive
 - take faecal samples from at least 6 other **non-milking cattle** every 2 months from August to January for laboratory analysis
 - initiate treatment and/or a vaccination programme as appropriate if disease is identified
- **Annual payment : £419**



Voluntary Action 7 – Liver fluke

- Where possible, obtain feedback on liver fluke from abattoir
- At least once every two months take faecal samples from at least 6 sites around the farm for bulk lab analysis & treat where parasite detected
- Identify high-risk areas of grazing on the basis of wet ground etc – avoid using such areas between July-March (Such areas may vary annually)
- Document fields taken out of use in the Animal Welfare Management Plan



The Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

Voluntary Action 7 – Liver fluke

- **Annual Payment** : £280
- Payment for Loss of grazing up to 1.5 ha.
- £417 (£278/ha)
- Total possible £697



Voluntary Action 8 – Johne's disease

- Join an approved Johne's control programme.
- Isolate and test scouring cattle.
- Do not co-graze or sequential graze with other livestock that can carry Johne's disease infection in the same season
- Don't breed from the offspring Johne's positives.
- **Annual payment : £378**



Voluntary Action 9 – BVD

- Prevent nose to nose contact with neighbouring cattle at boundaries.
- Cull persistently infected **ADULT** animals & vaccinate breeding herd .
- Purchase replacements from accredited BVD free herds, where not possible screen for virus.
- Purchased, pregnant BVD antibody +ve animals must be calved in isolation and calf isolated until screened. Cull any persistently infected calves produced.



Voluntary Action 9 – BVD

- Do not buy dairy-bred calves to set on to cows (unless from a BVD accredited free herd)
- Dairy herd – screen bulk milk for antibody quarterly.
- Beef herd - test 5 calves annually from each separately managed group of calves in the 9 to 18 months age range
- **Annual payment : £372**



Voluntary Action 10 – Sheep scab

- Contact all neighbours with sheep to co ordinate treatment.
- If co ordination is not possible – don't use adjacent grazing fields or common land.
- **Annual Payment ; £204**
-
- Payment for loss of grazing (up to max of 10ha) £150 max (£15/ha)
- Total possible: £354



Inspection / verification

- Animal Welfare Management Plan
- Declaration from vet that benchmarking data received on an agreed regular basis
- Written evidence that all relevant performance indicators and disease symptoms are being recorded



Implementation

- Scottish Agricultural College development officer
- Training arranged for vets in 2009/2010
- Basic questionnaire to support welfare discussion
- Most uptake of new scheme expected in May 2010 to fit in with claim year – up to 4000 businesses?



Health Plan Uptake 2005 & 2006

AREA OFFICE	No. of Applicants 2005/06	No. of Applicants 2006/07	Total in AHWMP	Total IACS Businesses 06	% of IACS Businesses doing AHWMP
Ayr	419	77	496	2063	24
Benbecula	214	69	283	755	38
Dumfries	396	56	452	1564	29
Elgin	143	19	162	639	25
Gala	378	60	438	1739	25
Thainstone	362	95	457	3054	15
Hamilton	232	60	292	882	33
Inverness	247	77	324	1515	21
Kirkwall	355	30	385	821	47
Lairg	62	24	86	506	17
Lerwick	88	32	120	1062	11
Oban	207	79	286	1003	29
Perth	475	77	552	2943	19
Portree	137	54	191	577	33
Stornoway	83	24	107	1253	9
Thurso	157	46	203	821	25
Totals	3955	879	4834	21197	23



Conclusion

- It is hoped that the new scheme will be taken up widely and result in improved welfare on farms, greater veterinary involvement in health planning, familiarisation with the Welfare Quality approach and useful benchmarking data.
- Ask me in July about uptake!



Further information



- <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/farmingrural/SRDP/Land-Managers-Options/Availableoptions/AWMP>
- <https://www.animalhealthscotland.gov.uk/>
- andrew.voas@scotland.gsi.gov.uk



The Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba