



SWHLI RAP

MINUTES

Time:	10.00	Chairman:	Richard Stanbury
Place:	Taunton NFU	Co-ordinator:	Annabelle Priest
Meeting Date:	8 th June 2009	Tel:	01392 878337

Attending: Richard Stanbury (Chairman) (RS), Nick Cork (SWFD) (NC), Christine Marshall (SWFD) (CM), Nick Bell (BVS)(NB), Tim Dart (SWRDA) (TD), Julie Edwards (NFU) (JE), Phil Hadley (Eblex) (PH), Annabelle Priest (SWHLI) (AP), Dick Sibley (Private Vet/EIG) (DS), Richard Soffe (Duchy College) (RSo), Helen Thoday (BPEX) (HT), Peter Baber (Farmer/Meat SW) (PB), Duncan Forbes (Kingshay Farming Trust) (DF), Tim McKendrick (The Dairy Group) (TM), Brian Preece (VLA) (BP), Ben Bennett (Animal Health) (BB), Charles Bourns (Poultry Farmer) (CB), Rob Hatt (SWRDA) (RH)

Apologies:

1. Minutes Approved and Signed from 27th March 2009

2. Market Research Update

Adas completed farmers survey by the end of April, positive feedback. 80% of partakers happy to be consulted again, 60% want review of findings. The postal survey was less successful, only 23 came back in total, but these were excellent quality. SW REG had some concerns over data protection with the farmer discussion group surveys and their distribution so they were delayed. The final report of the Market Research should be ready in time to be included in the interim report. Sam Beechener to get the MR report to SWFD for 15th June. Confirm RAP to be forwarded the report when complete with NC's comments and amendments.

NC

3. Presentation on Measure 111

Paper provided. Measure 111 has three axes,

1. Competitiveness of Agriculture and forestry sectors
2. Natural England and forestry Commission and the Countryside Stewardship Scheme
3. Wider rural Economy and Social Objectives

RH

1 and 3 has £150 million in the South West, axis one has £76m of that. In each axis is a series of measures. Measure 111 is training in axis 1. In RIP £32m available for 111 and includes Animal Health and Welfare. It is the most flexible and useful of the Measures. RDA has now lifted their cap on 70% maximum contribution to projects and for claimants who will not have commercial gain from the funding the contribution can now be 100%.

The beneficiaries of the funding must be dependent on agriculture/forestry, however broad this may sound, this is the Brussels rule which then is interpreted by the RPA. The RPA have decided that the beneficiaries must have a holding number to be eligible in order to keep the funding in farming directly. This is unlikely to change over the period of the five years of SWHLI.

Presentation on VTS

RSof

Manual records must be kept of beneficiaries and activities for at least 10 years. The project can be monitored by on site, on the spot, inspections to check adherence to rules and regulations at any point up to five years after the final funding payment.

Grants are given quarterly in arrears and a quarterly progress report is required. Each claim will be accompanied by a site visit. VTS claims now running 9 months behind. It must be appreciated that it is likely to take six months from taking on a project like VTS to receiving any funding. The delays should shrink the longer the plan is implemented.

What can't be funded: activities or training required by legislation, training for individuals

that are in the business of charging for their expert knowledge e.g. e.g. Consultants, vets, merchants, agronomists etc.. TD

Those who attend events from within England but outside of the South West cannot be charged to attend more than those within the South West are as all regions are working on a national RDPE plan. However if an attendee comes from outside of England they could be charged the full commercial rate. HT

Word of warning that BPEX have had a project's funding refused having already spent out on it. TD

Measure 111 (vocational training and information actions) can be used in a more diverse way than purely 'training' it doesn't have to be just talking to people. It can include information actions"" which could include a diagnostic tool. (e.g. blood tests, Bulk milk samples, FEC tests etc...)SWHLI does have a small capital grant which is part of Measure 121 (modernisation of agricultural holdings). If an action could help change behaviour it is likely to be eligible under Measure 111. RH

We want to use 111 in as imaginative a way as possible and be flexible but we want to avoid BPEX's situation with being ineligible. We will not let you get refused by RPA. Each sector needs to think about which others they can work with to maximise the opportunities for all.

SWHLI website could have the SWHLI reference group on it for anyone to see who is willing to support SWHLI. RS

4. Data Collation

It has achieved its aim to find data sources available to SWHLI and the standard of them. The report is completed and to be put into interim report. Organisations mentioned in the report are all willing to share the data they have, providing it is not overly costly to them. NB

Thank you to NB for his hard work on this project. RS

5. Interim Report

Thanks go to Gillian Collins for her work on providing the basis of the report, which has been finalised by NC. Report approved by RAP. Approved sector specific priorities to be included in final version.

6.

7. Sector Specific Workshops

Excellent meetings held, thanks to all involved, particularly NB. RS

Dairy

Priorities:

1. Lameness
2. BVD
3. Johnes
4. Mastitis

TM/
DF/
DS

The Duchy Dairy group combined BVD, Lepto and IBR into one 'eradicable diseases' priority but this will not be progressed due to the unlikelihood of being able to eradicate Lepto or IBR. Concept notes for each priority have been drafted by TM, DF, DS and will be discussed with TD confidentially ahead of submitting a grant proposal to the RDA. Concept notes will also be forwarded to RAP confidentially.

Beef

Priorities:

1. BVD
2. Johnes

PH

3. Blood testing
4. Certification for disease status
5. Pneumonia control

BVD can be shared with Dairy as the problems and solutions are similar and will be input onto the same database in any case. It would be more difficult and less beneficial to combine Johnes projects as the problems and solutions for each sector are more different. Lameness, mastitis and pneumonia although shared problems between dairy and beef, are individualised to each sector.

Certification or accreditation scheme for disease status was a priority for producers at the workshops.

The NFU have previously raised concerns over certification.

JE

History shows that certification can have a negative commercial impact on the industry, and should be aimed at breeding livestock only. However breeders are reluctant to have certification.

DF

Sheep

PB

The two workshops approached the sheep sector very differently but these were the priorities agreed by both:

1. Anthelmintic resistance – worms, fluke etc.
2. Lameness
3. Abortion
4. Scab

The second group would have liked to concentrate more on breeding and nutrition to tackle the priorities, however these cannot be funded by SWHLI.

It may be that the goats and sheep can work together on some of these priorities, particularly anthelmintic resistance, this will be discussed with them.

PH and PB to work up a programme on priorities 1 and 2 above to discuss with TD and put forward as RDA grant application.

Pigs

The priorities discussed in the sector workshops could only be improved by capital grants, so BPEX are to do more sector specific workshops based on priorities which can be improved by farm health planning.

HT

EIG recognise and report nationally that there are frequent frustrations that what is needed is not permissible under funding rules.

DS

Poultry

CB

Priorities:

1. Data Sharing
2. CPD/Training
3. Biosecurity
4. Benchmarking

As there is no common and prolific disease in poultry as with other sectors, the priorities centre around alleviating the numerous common but not widespread diseases that producers tackle. This will have long term effects beyond the end of the SWHLI project. As there is no levy board for poultry, St David's have started working with poultry, concern raised to ensure that all vet practices are included. Suggestion that a college could do the admin. support for the project with the advantage that they would be independent. The project involves development and use of a new piece of software, this might need to be partly funded under Measure 121. NFU to write up concept notes for poultry moving forward.

9. PR/Marketing

10. AOB

Allan Wellwood to take over from BB as from next RAP meeting.

BB

Adam Quinney has been appointed to oversee the RDAs nationally.

CB

Dairy Co. supportive of SWHLI and happy to be involved but are currently moving and therefore might find contribution very difficult until the move is complete.

RS

NC and RS looking at SWHLI budget in light of those unsalaried RAP members who are currently not able to claim expenses for travel.

An extra 10% has been requested for the budget.

CM

Chairman.....

Date: