

South West Healthy Livestock Initiative

Background

The objectives of the South West Healthy Livestock Initiative are:

To improve standards of health and welfare among farmed animals by:

- Optimising levels of animal performance
- Improving quality of meat, milk, hides, fleece etc leading to better marketability / higher prices.
- Reducing direct costs and wastage

Objectives will be achieved through increased knowledge and skills of practitioners within the industry on subjects such as genetics, nutrition, fertility, environment, prevention, diagnosis, control and treatment of parasites and diseases.

A £7.5 million support package has been awarded to nine projects across the South West spanning all sectors of the livestock industry.

The Ruminant Sector

1. South West TB Advisory Service

Hosted by the NFU, this project has funded the setting up of an advisory service focusing on TB in the South West. The aim of the project is to ensure a high level of independent and confidential farmer friendly support linked to all practical aspects and solutions of TB and to enable dairy and beef farmers to continue to trade. This will include bespoke individual help and advice to mitigate the risk of contracting TB in the herd as well as measures to reduce the impact of TB on farms who already have the disease.

Coverage: Whole of the South West
How to contact: Elizabeth Shearman 01392 440706
website - www.southwest-tbadvice.co.uk
Project start: July 2010

2. Calf and Youngstock Rearing centres of excellence

A project developed by Westpoint Veterinary Group and Blade Farming Ltd that provides a programme of training focused specifically on calf and young stock rearing, looking at animal disease management, improving nutrition, best practice in husbandry, housing and welfare standards.

Coverage: Whole of the South West
No. of participants: 1,368
How to contact: Gemma Rowland 07791153573
Project start: July 2010

3. The Control of BVD and Johne's Disease in Beef and Dairy herds

A project developed by The Mount Veterinary Group and Stuart Young Veterinary Services. The aim is to control, and if possible eradicate BVD and Johne's disease in 40 beef and dairy herds by putting in place a programme of education, training and knowledge transfer. Through delivering this project it will be possible to give applicants a thorough understanding of the nature of the diseases and the methods by which we can control the spread within and between herds.

Coverage: Devon and Somerset
No. of participants: 40 cattle farms (20 beef, 20 dairy)
How to contact: Farmers already targeted
Project start: September 2010

4. Bodmin Moor Livestock Initiative

A project developed by Cornwall Development Company, with the aim of covering the diagnostic work required to identify the incidence of the three major diseases that affect the suckled cow, BVD, Leptospirosis and Johne's disease. Attention will also be given to mineral deficiencies, bull infertility, and anthelmintic resistance and abortion in sheep.

Coverage: Bodmin Moor
No. of participants: 100
How to contact: Ed Nancekivell at edward.nancekivell@cornwalldevelopmentcompany.co.uk,
(01208) 892803
Project start: August 2nd 2010

5. The South West Healthy Ruminants Initiative

A project developed by the Rural Business School, aiming to increase the profitability and competitiveness of the beef, dairy and sheep sectors in the South West by increasing the technical, animal husbandry and management skills of cattle and sheep farmers. It will promote pro – active health planning, improve disease, welfare and bio security status of livestock, demonstrate the effectiveness of health improvements and contribute to improved economic performance and public demand.

Coverage: Whole of the South West
No of participants: 8500
How to contact: Paul Ward at www.duchy.ac.uk/rbs, or 0845 4587485 (from September)
Project start: Launch at Beef SW September 29th, events from 1st October

The Pig Sector

6. Small Pig Herd Health and Welfare Seminars

A project developed by the George Vet Group with the aim of increasing the scope of training provided to include the enthusiastic small scale pig producers which may not have access to specialised veterinary advice, local discussion groups, or information to help with the management and development of the business. The project will be delivered through a series of educational seminars, targeted at increasing the knowledge and skill base of these producers, and will include information on health and welfare, preventative medicine, reproductive management and the sick pig.

Coverage: Devon, Somerset, Dorset, Wiltshire and Gloucestershire
No of participants: 60 – 70
How to contact: Annie Davis/ Angie Reeves at pigteam@georgevetgroup.co.uk
www.georgevetgroup.co.uk/pigs/index.htm (from August)
Project start: November 2010 (first seminars)

7. Animal Health and Welfare Training Programme for Pig Producers

A project developed by NADIS aimed at improving health, welfare and general husbandry skills of pig keepers in the South West by better disease control and prevention. The project will provide targeted training to all pig producers.

Coverage: Whole of the South West
No of participants: 720
How to contact: Keith Hurst at keith.hurst@nadis.org.uk, (01858) 555722
Project start: 1st September 2010

The Poultry Sector

8. *The Poultry (layers) and Game Bird Initiative*

A project developed by the Rural Business School, involving a programme of health and welfare knowledge and training, including knowledge transfer, skills training, health planning discussion groups, proactive disease testing and an online forum.

Coverage: Whole of the South West

No of participants: 750

How to contact: Wayne Simmons at www.duchy.ac.uk/rbs, or 0845 4587485
(from September)

Project start: 13th September 2010

9. *Datapoul Ltd*

A project developed by St Davids Vet Group dealing with poultry broilers. It includes the creation and development of a web based platform designed to allow farmers to input their own production data around prevalence and incidence of the main poultry diseases and the performance of each crop of birds. Training on poultry health and welfare issues will also be delivered to farmers via a conference, workshops and seminars.

Coverage: Whole of the South West

No of participants: 150

How to contact: Alison Colville Hyde / Richard Turner at
enquiries@datapoul.co.uk or phone 08448486020

Project start: 1st August 2010