



WELSH LAMB & BEEF PRODUCERS LTD

NEWSletter

SUMMER 2025



WLBP's Innovative Work to Measure Antimicrobial Use Recognised at National Awards

WLBP's innovative work to measure antimicrobial use (AMU) on Welsh farms has been recognised at the prestigious **Antibiotic Guardian 2024/25 Shared Learning & Awards**.

The Antibiotic Guardian Awards champion organisations and individuals who have **“demonstrated achievements in tackling antimicrobial resistance at a local, regional, or national level.”**

WLBP received the **‘Innovation and Technology’** category award for its activities as a partner in **Arwain DGC** – a Welsh Government-funded programme dedicated to preventing antibiotic resistance in animals and the environment. The programme supports farmers and vets through data-driven decisions, innovative technologies, and best practices.

WLBP General Manager, Iestyn Tudur-Jones, said: **“We are absolutely delighted and incredibly proud that the commitment and dedication of Welsh farmers, working with their vets to evidence their antibiotic usage through technology, has been recognised among such strong entries from both the**

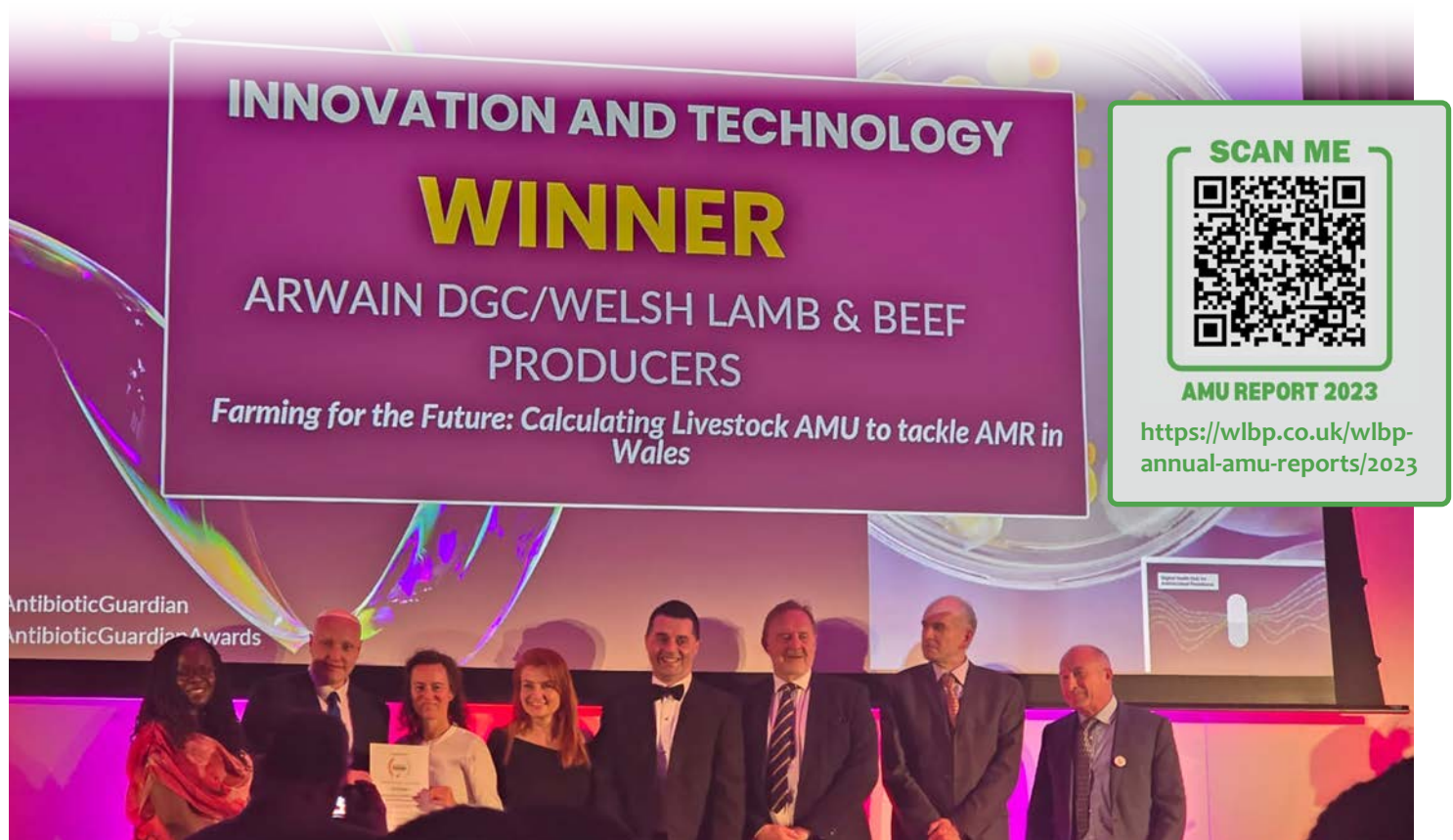
animal and human health sectors.

Welsh Lamb & Beef Producers farmer members, through the Farm Assured Welsh Livestock scheme and in collaboration with their vets, are leading the UK and Europe in demonstrating responsible antibiotic use.

Not only does this reflect their efforts to tackle AMR in livestock and the environment in Wales, but it also goes a long way toward evidencing and underpinning the production credentials of our livestock sector. **It's a true team effort – with farmers taking responsibility, supported by industry partners and government.”**

Welsh farmers have embraced WLBP's voluntary approach, which is believed to have resulted in the **largest independent dataset of its kind in the UK.**

The Antibiotic Guardian award follows the publication of the **third WLBP Antimicrobial Use Report**, a comprehensive summary of AMU in 2023. The report includes data from **6,060 beef, sheep, and dairy enterprises** across Wales, covering the period from 1 January to 31 December 2023.



Commissioned by WLBP and independently conducted by researchers at the Bristol Veterinary School, University of Bristol, the 2023 WLBP AMU Report offers valuable insights into how the Welsh beef, sheep and dairy sectors are responding to emerging risks of antimicrobial resistance. The report also addresses the pressures of maintaining the effectiveness of antimicrobials through responsible and reduced usage.

The 2023 Report reveals that 6060 calculations have been completed by farmers, representing an increase in calculations compared to 2022 figures. Since the release of WLBP's report for 2021, there has been a significant rise in the number of beef, sheep and dairy enterprises actively using the AMU Calculator, with increases of 160%, 135% and 100%, respectively.

Iestyn said:

"At WLBP, we recognise the importance of co-designing standards with our members and industry stakeholders. This third report on AMU in Wales by WLBP is underpinned by collaboration between farmers, vets, government and supply chain."

Also, included in the 2023 Report are new sections created using the AMU Calculator, detailing month-on-month AMU purchasing variations categorised by enterprise type and administration route.

"By completing this process, farmers can also navigate their data to fulfil any supply chain demands that may request such information. This system allows the farmer to complete the task once but utilise and share their data under their control as often as they wish."

Organic Annexes



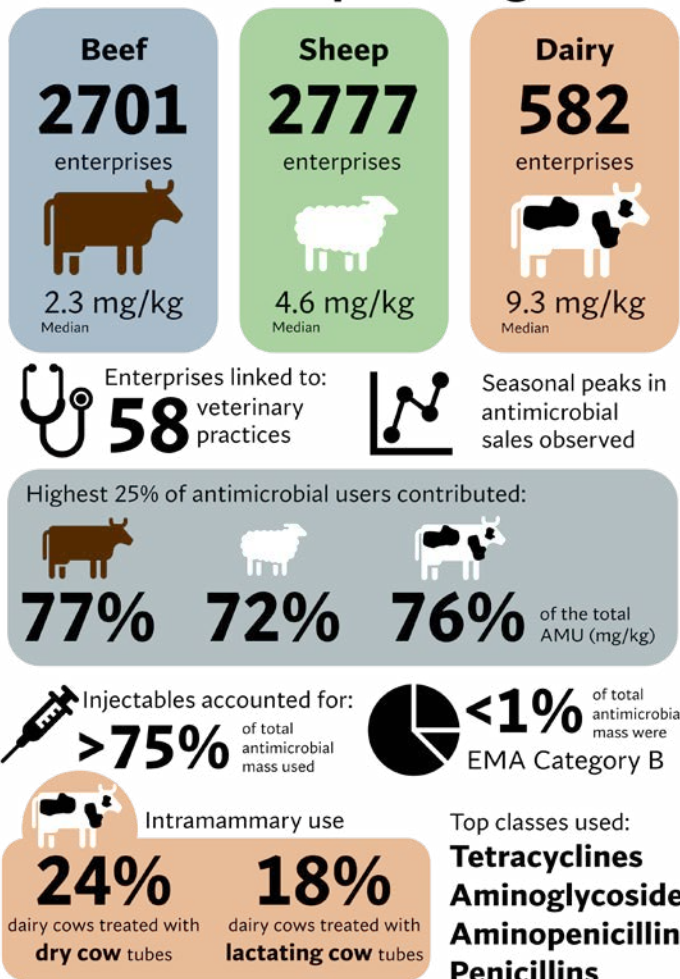
'To All Organic Producers'

The Annexes to the Welsh Organic Scheme Standard are currently being reviewed & amended – updated copies will be sent to Producers when available.

Did you know that the Welsh Organic Scheme is the largest certifier of organic farmers in Wales? We can offer joint inspections for organic processing, FAWL, and Red Tractor Dairy. If you are considering conversion to organic production or would like to transfer your certification from another control body, please contact our certification team in the office or visit us at the Royal Welsh Show in the WAOS building, located by the main ring.



2023 AMU Report at a glance



New Rodenticide Rule – make sure you are compliant from January 2026:

From 1st January 2026, farmers across the UK, including Wales, will need to complete a recognised course and hold a valid certificate to purchase and use professional-grade rodenticides. This change is part of updated stewardship rules introduced by the Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use (CRRU), aimed at sustainable pest control practices. After 1st January 2026, being a member of an assurance scheme will no longer be sufficient to qualify you to purchase rodenticide products. The FAWL Scheme Standard is currently being reviewed & amended – updated copies will be available to Producers on our website in due course.

Further information and guidance are available via <https://www.thinkwildlife.org/>, and there are courses available which are supported by Farming Connect and other providers.



National Food Crime Unit Update

The National Food Crime Unit (NFCU) is a dedicated law enforcement function of the Food Standards Agency (FSA). The unit provides leadership on food crime across England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The NFCU was established in 2015 following a review of the 2013 horse meat incident. The NFCU is tasked with protecting consumers and the food industry from food crime within food supply chains.

We define food crime as serious fraud and related criminality in food supply chains. This definition also includes activity impacting on drink and animal feed.

Examples of food crime include the use of stolen food in the supply chain, unlawful slaughter, diversion of unsafe food, adulteration, substitution or misrepresentation of food, and document fraud.

Recent Enforcement Action

- NFCU officers, together with Dyfed-Powys Police, attended a farm in Wales on Wednesday 4 December 2024 and arrested one man.
- The arrest is linked to [five earlier arrests made in London](https://www.food.gov.uk/news-alerts/news/five-arrested-as-part-of-fsa-food-crime-investigation) (<https://www.food.gov.uk/news-alerts/news/five-arrested-as-part-of-fsa-food-crime-investigation>), in connection with seizures of suspected illegal meat on Monday 25 November 2024.
- The man was interviewed by NFCU officers and has been released under investigation.

Smokies/Skin-On Sheep or Goat Meat

Smokies are a food safety issue as they aren't produced under hygienic conditions, and they are illegal because the meat still has its skin on and lacks traceability.

We are advising people to steer clear of sheep meat produced in this way as it may be a health risk, and to contact their local Trading Standards or us if they suspect smokies are being produced or sold

What Can you Do?

Theft of sheep is strongly linked to illegal processing so all thefts need to be reported to police. The NFCU have a strong relationship with the National Rural Crime Unit, who will inform us of any livestock thefts.

In order to reduce the risks, ensure that legal buying and selling practices are adhered to and traceability is maintained at all times when moving live animals.

Report a food crime

You can report a food crime through our dedicated channels confidentially. We have a freephone number, an online reporting form and an email address to make it easy to report any food crime suspicions.

Food Crime Confidential: 0800 028 11 80 (0207 276 8787 for non-UK mobiles and calls).

Email: foodcrime@food.gov.uk

Online Form: www.food.gov.uk/contact/businesses/report-safety-concern/report-a-food-crime

Animal Health Improvement Cycle (AHIC) Pilot Project

Welsh Lamb & Beef Producers have been managing the AHIC Pilot Project funded by the Welsh Government. With the objective to ensure the AHIC is deliverable and scalable, when it is rolled out as a Universal Action of the Sustainable Farming Scheme (SFS) in Wales from 2026. Livestock farmers will need to work with their own vet to identify an area of interest within an enterprise, where a gain in animal health and production could be made. 60 vets from across Wales have been involved in the pilot, alongside 180 livestock farmers and 5 veterinary project mentors. So far 80% of farmers that are part of the AHIC Pilot Project said they found it 'very' or 'extremely' valuable and said the AHIC has positively changed their view on proactively involving their vet to advise on health planning.

Further Information:

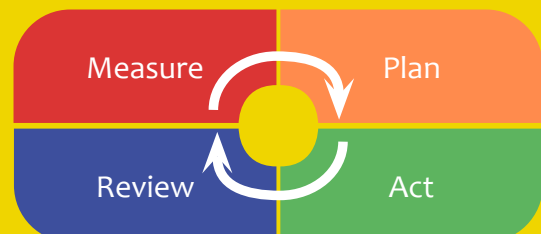
<https://www.gov.wales/sustainable-farming-scheme-proposed-scheme-outline-2024-html#158389>



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

1. Farmer and vet obtain key livestock production and health data.

2. The targets and actions are agreed between the farmer and the vet.



4. Farmer and vet review progress and impact. AHIC cycle begins again.

3. Farmer completes the actions. Compliance is based on actions not results.

WLBP – Social Media



@WLBPProducers



Welsh Lamb and Beef Producers
Cynhyrchwyr Cig Oen Ac Eidion Cymru



WLBPProducers

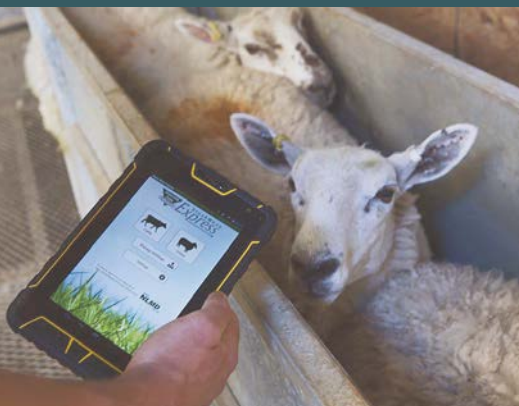


We will be attending the Royal Welsh Show
Please come and visit us for a chat!

FIND US NEXT TO THE MAIN RING AT THE WAOS BUILDING



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