



NEWSLETTER



SPRING 2013

WELSH LAMB & BEEF PRODUCERS LTD

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 25 February 2013 @ 2.30pm

Annual General Meeting of Members. The Annual General Meeting of members will be held at Plas Antaron Hotel, Southgate, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion on Monday 25 February 2013 at 2.30pm

Yours faithfully, WG Jones, Secretary

AGENDA:

1. To receive the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting
2. To receive the Chairman, Richard Howells' Report,
3. To receive and approve the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2012*
4. To appoint directors – Messrs David Bebb Evans and Dafydd Jones retire by rotation and being eligible, offer themselves for re-election**
5. To elect 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 by 22 February 2013.

Are you an eligible business that can claim 80% of the cost for the veterinary mentoring service? (up to £400 per day for up to eight days)



Welsh Lamb & Beef Producers Ltd is an approved contractor to help deliver Animal Health and Welfare mentoring for farmers under the veterinary mentor option of Farming Connect's Whole Farm Plan.

Farming Connect is an integrated, high profile, service for farming families in Wales. It is funded through the Rural Development Plan 2007–2013 and is financed by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the Welsh Assembly Government.

The service offers a range of services which are fully funded and partially subsidised. In order for you to qualify for the subsidised funding you will need to be registered first with Farming Connect. WLBP is working with vets across Wales that have been approved to deliver animal health and welfare advice on their behalf.

The following vet practices have vets approved to deliver mentoring under the Farming Connect service via WLBP:

Afon Vets, Neath
Farm First Vets, Abergavenny
Honddu Vets, Brecon
Maesglas Vets, Bridgend

Market Hall Vets, St Clears
Fenton Vets, Haverfordwest
Castle House Vets, Newcastle Emlyn
Steffan Vets, Lampeter
Davies & Potter, Lampeter
Dolgellau Vets Ltd, Dolgellau
Camlas Vets, Welshpool
Milfeddygon Deufor, Pwllheli
Bennet-Williams Vets, Gaerwen, Angelsey
Kate Burnby, Independent Veterinary Consultant, Cheshire
Williams Vets, Tywyn
Cain Vets, Llansanffraid
Four Crosses Vets, Llanymynech
Aeron Vets, Ciliau Aeron, Lampeter
Oak Vets, Clarbeston Road, Haverfordwest
Allen & Partners, Whitland
Ddole Road, Llandrindod Wells
Bodrwnsiwn Vets, Anglesey
Daleside Vets, Wrexham
Hafren Vets, Newtown
Hay Vets, Hay-on-Wye
Kate Hovers, Vet Consultant, Trecastle
Park Vets, Cardiff
Priory Vets, Cardigan
Pro Stock Vets, Carmarthen
St James Vets, Swansea
Teilo Vets, Llandeilo
Trefaldwyn Vets, Montgomery
Tysul Vets, Llandysul
WT Pritchard the Vet, Denbigh
Ystwyth Vets, Aberystwyth
Carmarthen Veterinary Centre
Bush House Vets, Llandeilo

Fishguard Vet Services
Welsh Regional Veterinary Centre, Gelli Aur, Llandeilo
Usk Vets, Usk
Stapeley Vets, Minsterley
Grange Vets, Holywell
Park Issa Vets, Oswestry
Brownlow Vets, Ellesmere

Each vet has individual rates and packages to offer farmers as part of the service and you are therefore advised to contact individual practices in order to obtain quotes and advice as to what's on offer to you from them once you have registered and had approval from Farming Connect that you qualify for the funding.

Eligible businesses will be able to claim 80% of the cost (up to £400 per day for up to eight days) for the veterinary mentoring service.



Below is a list of Farming Connect regional coordinators who are able to assist you in registering and applying for funding under the scheme.

Elliw Evans	North Wales, Llŷn Peninsula	elliw.evans@menterabusnes.co.uk	07772 694116
Lowri Evans	Flintshire and Wrexham	lowri.williams@menterabusnes.co.uk	07772 694098
Eryl P Roberts	Denbighshire and Conwy	eryl.roberts@lantra.co.uk	07917 895253
Guto Owen	Anglesey, Snowdonia and Meirionnydd	guto.owen@menterabusnes.co.uk	07896 996832
Gwenan Ellis	Mid and South East Wales	gwenan.ellis@menterabusnes.co.uk	07866 547894
Christopher Davies	Brecknockshire and Radnorshire	christopher.davies@lantra.co.uk	07917 895255
Deian Thomas	South East and Valleys	deian.thomas@menterabusnes.co.uk	07772 694952
Sarah Lewis	South Pembrokeshire	sarah.lewis@lantra.co.uk	07827 956765
Gareth Griffiths	Carmarthenshire	gareth.griffiths@menterabusnes.co.uk	07772 694112
Dylan Sandbrook	North Pembrokeshire and South Ceredigion	dylan.sandbrook@menterabusnes.co.uk	07772 694958
Rhodri Jones	North Ceredigion	rhodri.jones@menterabusnes.co.uk	07896 997107

Who's checking your Farm Assurance status?

Welsh Lamb & Beef Producers Ltd has operated a web-based checking system that enables farmers, auction marts, processors and others to verify claims that a farmer is a member of the FAWL scheme. In the 12 months to the 31st December 2012, 142 different people or organisations visited the site on a daily basis. A system called Multi-Checker allows frequent or busy users to check many numbers at the same time: introduced in 2011, it has proved very popular.

There were 217,046 hits in the period, with processors accounting for most of the enquiries with 112,000 hits, closely followed by auctioneering firms at just over 100,000 hits. There was a significant increase in the number of farmers who conducted enquiries on the site in 2012 and while they were researching just a handful of membership confirmations, they did come back to check on a number of occasions.

On average, just over 800 enquiries are conducted daily with follow-up calls for further information made to the FAWL office. The website has proved an invaluable tool for WLBP to maintain the integrity of the FAWL scheme. Similar services are also provided by the Red Tractor Scheme in England, QMS in Scotland and the NIFQAS scheme in Northern Ireland. You can access the site via www.fawl.co.uk



FAWL Non-conformances

A recent study of the non-conformances raised most frequently during FAWL inspections of WLBP members' farms indicated that the most frequent non-conformances relate to maintenance of Management Plan or Farm Records; in fact four of the five most frequently raised non-conformances related to record keeping.

Top of the list in positions one and two are the preparation of a Manure Management Plan and a Farm Health Plan, with 7.8% & 7% of the 3,876 farms visited in the 12 months to 31 December 2012 not fully complying with the standards. Failure to keep a complete and up to date Medicines Administrations Record and a complete Medicine Purchase Record were in third and fifth place respectively. Surprisingly, the number of non-conformances raised against housing standards stood at 5.2% of the number of farms visited, the only standard to reflect an increase in incidents of non conformances when compared to the same period in the previous year. Part of the reason for this is thought to be the fact that farmers now have less time to devote to regular maintenance, given the pressure of time that farmers face while the lack of farm income in recent years has been a factor as well.

Additional Holding Numbers still needed

Although we have requested that all members provide us with a list of all of their holdings, we are still having problems with some farmers entering stock into an abattoir that has come from a holding that is not registered with the FAWL scheme, even though the main holding itself is recorded as farm assured. Abattoirs check our website of FAWL members daily and have not been prepared to accept stock from an unregistered holding as farm assured and have penalised a number of members.

We strongly urge you to tell us about all new holdings you may acquire (even if only on a temporary basis) or ones that may not be currently covered so as to avoid any problems in future and to make sure that you do not lose out because your stock has been downgraded as non-farm assured.



E-mail addresses

In future, we will be encouraging members to provide us with their e-mail addresses as we move to try and minimise the ever increasing costs of distributing information by post. We hope over time to be able to use e-mails as our primary way of contacting our members and believe that it will make a significant contribution to keeping our costs down.

Credit/Debit Card Payments

As you may be aware, WLBP can accept subscription payments by Credit or Debit Card. Due to charges imposed by Credit Card companies we will have to charge a 2.5% surcharge to the payment for Credit Card payments made after 1st March 2013. Payments by Debit Card will be free of any surcharges. Please contact the office on 01970 636688 if you wish to use this method to pay.

Aberystwyth University Questionnaire – chance to win £100

The School of Management and Business at Aberystwyth University are conducting research into Farm Management and Technology. This will assist in producing publications, advising policy and developing management tools for the agricultural industry. For a chance to win £100 prize money please see the enclosed questionnaire.