

Committee Name:	Regional Livestock Board	Meeting Date:	10 November 2016
Circulation:		Location:	Quorn Lodge Hotel, Melton Mowbray
		Chairman:	Philip Abbott
		Secretary:	Simon Fisher
		Tel:	07803 204507

Present: Philip Abbott, Nick Dowler, David Forrest, Philip Richardson, Ros Turner, Stuart Ashton, William Walker, Clive Brown

By Invitation: Tom Dracup, NFU Livestock Adviser

In Attendance: Simon Fisher

Apologies: Nick Adams, Andrew Baugh, Mark Jelly

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 June 2016 were confirmed.

Matters arising

Simon Fisher drew member's attention to the Q&A on new livestock movement rules which can be updated if queries are feed in. For those affected by TB there is another layer of complexity to understand. On producer roadshows Bakewell have a meeting on 23 November. Leicestershire have a compliance day in Melton Market on 22 November. Further arrangements to suit demand can be made in counties, maybe in conjunction with Markets. On **TB – Post movement testing guidance**, the TB Hub (www.tbhub.co.uk) has a good Q&A on movements for claves and animals being sold outside the Low Risk Area. This was circulated with the matters arising statement. The board was asked to consider if other Q&As that we can ask the TB Hub to publish that will help farmers?

Brexit Update

Simon Fisher outlined the development of the NFU Brexit Policy Statement, drawing the threads of the NFU membership consultation together, and starting to put flesh on the bones of the three most pressing issues, namely trade, labour availability and domestic agricultural policy. Officeholders were now developing the detailed policy work, alongside developing alliances, particularly in the food chain and with the farming unions. To a certain extent the outcomes on trade and labour will start to determine domestic agricultural policy. Charles Sercombe was on the Presidents trade sub group. Outside of NFU, much noise exists politically; the Article 50 process is now weighed down in legal wrangles; and once triggered, during the two year negotiation the Dutch, French and Germans all have elections in 2017. The economic reality of a currently devalued Pound will be to exert pressure on wage inflation; labour and in longer term price inflation (estimates 2.7% in Q4).

Attention was drawn to AHDB and ADFAS papers on trade flows with particular reference to the livestock sector. The opportunities for export substitution are clearly visible in the figures.

Tom Dracup, NFU Livestock Adviser

Tom was welcomed to the East Midlands Board. He highlighted on 10 miles livestock movement rules that producer letter have gone out (May) and the next Defra correspondence will be about the removal of links. NFU have raised concerns about the lack of explanation to farmers. We are also seeking confirmation that the altered system will allow sheep to travel across TB risk areas. This would include

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farmers being able to establish a temporary land association to move livestock without the need to report and record the movement. We want clear guidelines; details about how commons will be dealt with and clear rules on shared buildings and mixed grazing.

On carcase splitting Commission agree in principle and attention turns to Defra and roll out. While this is possible in 2017 details will need to be implemented by January, 2017, so 2018 looks more likely at this stage.

Tom led members through the NFU response on the recent TB consultation. The finalised paper will be send to board members. Clarification requested on the NFU stance on proposals to mitigate the risk posed by inconclusive reactors.

AHDB Market Report – Clive Brown

Clive reported current market. Following the post Brexit strengthening of the Pound prices remain strong supported by tightening of supply and increased export volumes for beef and lamb. An AHDB film about VIA classification was being developed to explain it to producers. TV adverts started in October to promote mini roasts. Member's attention drawn the BVD initiative. Opportunities for beef and lamb in a post-Brexit landscape will be addressed at the 2016 AHDB Beef & Lamb Stakeholder Seminar on 8 December.

Red Tractor Standards Consultation

Board members considered the proposals from Red Tractor on revised standards for documentation and procedures.

Proposals	Board response
Animal feed to be brought from a Red Tractor assured farm	Rejected by the East Midlands board as unnecessary. While brand protection is the explanation the board felt this was a bridge too far. How does a lowland livestock farm that grows its own feed and is not Assured Combinable Crops comply with this? You cannot buy non-farm assured wheat but you can use own non-assured wheat? On a general theme of justification, more evidence that these measures will actually protect the brand is needed. Are they consumer tested?
Collection centres to be assured under the Red Tractor Assurance Collection Centres Scheme or the QMS Auction Market Scheme	No comment
Documented farm biosecurity plans to be completed	Good practice
Annual reviews of antibiotic use to be undertaken by a vet	Board members felt this would normally be incorporated into the Farm Health Plan and medicines booklet + can be seen on invoices. This appears to be overkill in these circumstances. Suggested this is parked for time being as debate around the
Antibiotic use to be recorded in an "identifiable" way on medicine administration records	

	AMR may change this within three years. Board would not accept an audit trail – too prescriptive. Suggested that the measure should read “Antibiotics are discussed in the annual review with the vet”
Rodenticides	Understood
Feed - Livestock provided sufficient roughage/ forage and body condition assessed	Common sense – see comment relating to water troughs
Clean water in troughs	Why don't they just list at start somewhere the need for common sense and what that might look like instead of being so prescriptive?
Plant protection products (PPPs) brought in line with arable. Various measures	Mission creep!

Andrew Baugh had asked for feedback of any experiences of getting vets to do farm assurance work on farm.

NVZ

Board members attention drawn to Defra NVZ designations and four year action plan review which could be introduced this autumn. Tougher action plan rules on livestock businesses are anticipated. Board members will be briefed and consulted by Paul Tame at Region.

Headquarters board report

Phil Abbott reported that the Livestock data hub project is a vast project that is in development. Looking at feeding back information from abattoirs and storing data on a wide range of data such as AMR and genetics. Opportunities and benefits need to be available to the producers, and NFU seek more involvement, if for example it could help re-shape livestock movement systems.

Bluetongue is still causing issues in France. While we move away from the most exposed months in terms of weather events from the continent, there are still real risks of cases in the UK.

An FSA report into cadmium and lead levels in offal where stock graze specific areas raises a question about careful management in the public domain. An industry initiative on best practice may have to be developed.

TB Update

- Belvoir vale TB Group – this has now been launched, a chairman appointed and producer meetings being scheduled.
- BTB Herd Status Accreditation Programme. This voluntary programme has been launched and is designed to help recognise producers who can market lower risk disease status
- Defra/ University Nottingham Roadkill survey. Professor Malcolm Bennett from Sutton Bonington has launched the survey in the Edge area. He wants 100 fresh roadkill badgers for testing. NFU offering to help distribute packs and promote.
- Board members asked if APHA had figures available on post movement testing.

Next meeting

2017 board dates agreed as follows:

Livestock board date	Venue
Thursday 12 January 2017	Quorn Lodge, Melton
Tuesday 14 March	Quorn Lodge, Melton
Wednesday 17 May	Newark market
Monday 26 June	Bakewell market
Monday 12 September	Conference call
Thursday 9 November 2017	Melton market
Thursday 11 January 2018	Quorn Lodge