



# CHAROLLAIS SHEEP SOCIETY

## *Bulletin*

27th March 2020

### OFFICE AND CORONAVIRUS

Well the world has certainly changed since the last bulletin - hope you are all managing to keep safe and well. At least farmers are the lucky ones in that we have space and work to do! The office is still running just about as per normal, within the health restrictions as currently in force. So you can contact us by phone, email, message at any time. The Council held a meeting yesterday evening, so we have quite a few updates to let you know about. We will be sending you weekly bulletins from now on, so hopefully can keep up to date with changes. Expect some extras bulletins as well.

### REGIONAL AND NATIONAL MEETINGS

As until further notice all BCSS meetings, farm visits and events including the national Annual General Meeting have been cancelled. We urge you all to adhere strictly to the Government rules and guidelines on social distancing and isolation. We will re-arrange the AGM for a suitable date in the Autumn. Venue yet to be confirmed. We are sorry that the North of England region has not been able to welcome us to the Dales in June, but thank them for the work they did to put the plans in place.

### SHOWS AND NSA EVENTS

You will have seen that most agricultural shows have been cancelled. Major events that will not take place this year are the Royal Welsh, Royal Three Counties, Royal Highland, Great Yorkshire. A number of shows in the South West and Balmoral have currently been postponed to dates later in the season - we will have to wait and see what happens to them.

NSA Scotsheep has provisionally been postponed until the 8th July. NSA Malvern Sheep event has not yet been cancelled. We will keep you updated as and when the situation changes for these events.



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## SALES 2020 - PREMIER SALE

The most important activity for the Society now is to find a way for members to market their rams and ewes this year. The first challenge is our Premier Sale, which is due to be held at Worcester Market on the 28th June. The Council looked and decided upon various scenarios and how we can give you all the opportunity to offer your very best lambs for sale to other breeders.

1. The first possibility is that by 28th June we are able to sell at Worcester. We may be restricted in some way and can make decisions on how we need to adapt nearer the time - if this still goes ahead. We can leave the cataloguing until as late as possible. We would also not ask flocks to submit scrapie genotype results at the time of entry, but by the time of the sale. We would still only allow ARR/ARR sheep to enter.
2. We are investigating a way to sell stock around the same date, but using a different format of selling. This would use video recordings and on-line bidding systems. We are in the very early stages of researching who, how, when, how much and all the details to go with this. But will keep you updated.
3. We have provisionally booked a later date; Saturday 1st August for a sale in Worcester Market. The meeting considered a suggestion to change our lambing date to 1st January - THIS WAS NOT ACCEPTED.

We all hope that one or a mixture of these solutions is going to be possible this year.

So that we can quickly and easily contact previous vendors and other interested parties we have set up a WhatsApp group. If you are not already a WhatsApp user you can download the app on your mobile phone.

Let us know what your thoughts are on these ideas - we know there are lots of details to be sorted out for the video sale; but would like to hear your reaction.



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### MAEDI VISNA ACCREDITATION

At the moment all veterinary surgeries are working under different arrangements; basically they are only attending to emergency requirements and not carrying out routine testing procedures. This means that no periodic testing for Maedi Visna accreditation will be possible at the present time. S&GHS have issued a note that in these circumstances, if you are due a test then they will allow a one month extension for the flock to stay accredited. After that they will stipulate a further 2 months during which time the flock will be suspended. We feel that this is unfair to flocks who have maintained a flawless record of testing and have had no issues with negative results. We have written to SGHS to express our concerns and asked them to rethink and extend the one month period.

### SCRAPIE TESTING

The first batch of tissue samples have been sent to Eurofins, in Germany. Their lab is operating normal service and we are able to send samples to them. Their test for scrapie genotype is certified under ISO 17025. We have submitted data on their certification to the S&GHS, who will share this with Defra. This should enable Defra to recognise Eurofins as an official testing organisation and their test results may be used for export and also for the movement of animals from non-scrapie monitored flocks into scrapie monitored flocks. If you require test results for both of these purposes, then samples will have to be collected by your veterinary surgeon (which is not possible at the present time). So probably hold off doing your sampling for a while. You can submit samples using Typifix (same ear tag type collector as we have supplied you with previously, so use up any you have in stock), Caisley Tag samples or bloods.

Any queries, get in touch.



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### CAN WE HELP YOU?

We appreciate that after a very difficult and wet winter for many of our members and now the on-going problems and anxiety linked with the Coronavirus situation, you might appreciate our help. We are willing and pleased to be able to offer members no penalties charges for late birth notifications or registrations. For the foreseeable future all registration processes will be charged at standard rate. Also if you need longer to pay for these transactions, we can try and facilitate this. If this is the case then you must contact us to discuss this - please just don't ignore our invoices, get in touch.

This bulletin will be put up on our website, under the Members tab. So if you know of members who are not able to pick up emails, let them know to keep checking the website for information.

The office is open and we are here for a chat if you need some company or support. Also your regional officers will be pleased to hear from you; just get in touch.

Also there are other agencies that are available to help farmers and those in the rural community - support organisations such as the Farming Community Network (FCN) who can be contacted on 03000 111999 or by email [help@fcn.org.uk](mailto:help@fcn.org.uk), they also have a wealth of information on their website [www.fcn.org.uk](http://www.fcn.org.uk)