

Joint BVA, BCVA, BVPA, GVS, SVS response to EFRA Committee Agriculture and Net-Zero Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Call for written evidence

30 September 2019

Who we are

1. The British Veterinary Association (BVA) is the national representative body for the veterinary profession in the United Kingdom. With over 18,000 members, our primary aim is to represent, support and champion the interests of the United Kingdom's veterinary profession. We therefore take a keen interest in all issues affecting the profession, including animal health and welfare, public health, regulatory issues and employment matters.
2. We have developed this response jointly with the following sector and species-specific veterinary associations:
 - The **British Cattle Veterinary Association (BCVA)**. BCVA is a specialist cattle division of the BVA comprising 1,250 members, of whom approximately 950 are practising veterinary surgeons working with cattle in farm animal veterinary practice.
 - The **British Veterinary Poultry Association (BVPA)** is an active non-territorial division of the British Veterinary Association. The objective of the BVPA is to further the knowledge of its members, who are drawn from academia, research, government, commerce and practice, by holding educational and technical meetings. The Association also offers objective science-based advice and comment on issues affecting its members and the poultry industry in general.
 - The **Goat Veterinary Society (GVS)** is a division of BVA and has approximately 300 members, including veterinary surgeons with a specific interest in goat health and welfare, but also has a significant "non-veterinary" membership including owners and farm personnel from across the entire spectrum of goat keeping in the UK.
 - The **Pig Veterinary Society (PVS)** is a specialist division of the British Veterinary Association. The membership of PVS includes veterinary surgeons and scientists who work in the pig sector, and the Society aims to assist its members in their professional lives by ensuring they have access to the latest information with regards pig health and production. PVS also represents the membership at a national level, making sure that pig welfare is a priority considering the latest research with regards health and management on farm.
 - The **Sheep Veterinary Society (SVS)** promotes sheep health and welfare as a specialist division of the BVA. While most of its 700 members are vets, many are drawn from all sectors of the sheep industry.
3. We welcome the opportunity to contribute to the EFRA Committee call for evidence on Agriculture and Net-Zero Greenhouse Gas Emissions. With increasing recognition that animal agriculture can be a contributor to environmental degradation, climate change, habitat loss and waste, changes in animal production and farming practices are necessary to increase efficiency of agriculture and mitigate environmental impact. As part of this, it is also important to consider the total emissions of the whole food chain, from farm to fork.

4. With this in mind, the veterinary profession has a key role to play in advancing the roles and status of animals within this debate and ensuring that the highest standards of health and welfare for production animals are maintained and recognised as a key sustainability objective.
5. The veterinary profession is an integral part of the agricultural and food sector, working collaboratively with others to protect animals, people and the environment they share. As animal health and welfare specialists and advocates from farm to fork, the veterinary profession is well-placed to advise and influence sustainable animal husbandry practices at whole system levels; safeguarding animal health and welfare whilst at the same time facilitating production efficiency and environmental protection.

Animal welfare as a key sustainability objective

6. It is important to recognise that the future of UK animal agriculture has several sustainability objectives (eg. mitigating climate change; water usage efficiency; preventing antimicrobial resistance; ensuring high animal health and welfare; preventing biodiversity loss and restoring habitats; food safety, nutrient quality and affordability). As part of efforts to make UK agriculture more sustainable and achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions, animal health and welfare should not be unnecessarily compromised to address human and environmental need. In order to be considered sustainable, agricultural systems must work towards the positive health and welfare of all farmed animals raised within them. BVA supports the Farm Animal Welfare Committee (FAWC)'s principles for sustainable agriculture and animal welfare¹:

Animal welfare is integral to sustainable agriculture:

- i. Agriculture cannot be considered sustainable if it is achieved at an unacceptable cost to animal welfare.*
 - ii. Sustainable agriculture must take account of the fact that farmed animals are sentient individuals.*
 - iii. Sustainable agriculture must include a duty of care for the physical and mental needs and natures of farmed animals, and should not depend on prolonged or routine use of pharmaceuticals, or on mutilations.*
7. Approaches to, and policies on, land use and sustainable animal agriculture must therefore ensure that farm animals have a good life and a humane death. To be considered sustainable, production systems should work towards positive health outcomes, the five animal welfare needs² and adhere to [OIE standards for animal health and welfare](#), offering stimulating living environments to allow for the performance of highly motivated behaviours; opportunities for positive welfare outcomes, such as comfort, pleasure, interest and confidence; and excellent health outcomes.³ These five animal welfare needs are set out in the UK Animal Welfare Acts as:
 - The need for a suitable environment
 - The need for a suitable diet

¹ Farm Animal Welfare committee (FAWC), 2016. *Sustainable agriculture and animal welfare*. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/593479/Advice_about_sustainable_agriculture_and_farm_animal_welfare_-_final_2016.pdf

² Animal Welfare Act 2006, Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006, Welfare of Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

³ Farm Animal Welfare Committee (FAWC), 2009. "Farm Animal Welfare in Great Britain: Past, Present and Future". Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fawc-report-on-farm-animal-welfare-in-great-britain-past-present-and-future>

- The need to be able to exhibit normal behaviour patterns
- The need to be housed with, or apart from, other animals
- The need to be protected from pain, suffering, injury and disease

How could 20% of UK agricultural land be repurposed to increase forest cover, restore peatlands, implement catchment-sensitive farming and enable agricultural diversification, whilst maintaining current levels of food production?

Diversifying land use

8. As a health-centred profession and key stakeholder in the One Health agenda, we support the development of policies that address the use of natural resources, protection and conservation of wild species, habitats and biodiversity in order to better protect the environment which both humans and animals share and reduce the ecological footprint of animal agriculture as a whole. As highlighted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations:

“If managed sustainably, agricultural sectors can contribute to important ecosystem functions. These include maintenance of water quality, nutrient cycling, soil formation and rehabilitation, erosion control, carbon sequestration, resilience, habitat provision for wild species, biological pest control and pollination.”⁴

9. The use of innovative whole farm management systems that integrate the delivery of environmentally beneficial outcomes as well as high quality animal health and welfare food products is paramount to ensure environmentally sustainable agriculture. In terms of soil health, in 2010 the annual external cost to farmers from soil erosion and compaction from agriculture in England and Wales was estimated to be £305 million.⁵ With this in mind, it is important to recognise the role livestock can play in optimising soil quality and productivity with whole farm management models that minimise environmental degradation and use resources and energy more efficiently.
10. Under certain circumstances and with the right conditions, inputs and attention to animal health and welfare, management options such as rotational grazing, incorporated within the context of whole farm management, can assist with restoration or improvement of soils and biodiversity.
11. Mob grazing or managed intensive rotational grazing (MIRG) for example is a form of rotational grazing whereby a high stock density is grazed in a paddock with short grazing periods and long rest periods.⁶ This approach ensures that:
- Forage yield per acre/hectare is maximised
 - Soil erosion is minimised through rest periods to prevent livestock from continuously treading and compacting the same area

⁴ FAO, 2017. Sustainable agriculture for biodiversity: Biodiversity for sustainable agriculture. Available at: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i6602e.pdf>

⁵ Defra, 2018. The Future Farming and Environment Evidence Compendium [pdf] Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/683972/future-farming-environment-evidence.pdf

⁶ Undersander, D., 2015. Pastures for Profit: A guide to rotational grazing. [pdf] Available at: https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb1097378.pdf

⁷ The Savory Institute work on this may be of interest to EFRA Committee: <https://www.savory.global/our-mission/>

- Manure is dispersed through hoof action, reducing fertilizer maintenance costs and mitigating against the environmental impact of some fertilizers

12. Veterinary input in the design of managed intensive rotational grazing systems is vital to ensure that provisions are in place across rotations to adequately meet ruminant and non-ruminant nutrient, water, shade and shelter requirements and maintain animal health.

Evidence-based policy and practice

13. Any efforts to optimise land use should be evidence-based, we would welcome evidence-based research and pilot studies to assess the total environmental impact of any proposed changes.

Are there other practical and economic ways for the agriculture sector to achieve net zero emissions?

14. It is important to be mindful of that fact that in a bid to achieve net zero emissions the practice of off-setting (eg. buying and planting more trees⁸) may enable wasteful and polluting practices to continue, as opposed to driving practices that result in positive environmental outcomes. In addition, it is important to recognise that food production will always incur some form of greenhouse gas emissions.
15. However, when considering how to achieve net zero admissions in UK agriculture, policy makers must accurately assess the global warming potential of different greenhouse gases produced by animal agriculture, and develop effective policies to mitigate these emissions accordingly. Research by International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) scientists from Oxford Martin School, Oxford University has demonstrated that rather than treating all greenhouse gases with a 'one-size fits all approach', there are two distinct types of emissions and they should be treated differently by using an adapted Global Warming Potential metric, GWP*. ⁹
16. For example, carbon dioxide (from farm vehicles, buildings, equipment, imported feed) and nitrous oxide (primarily from artificial fertilisers) are long-living pollutants that persist in the atmosphere. Whereas methane (produced from livestock) is a short-living pollutant that reduces over time (over an approximate 10-year cycle), meaning that methane emissions will replace old emissions and have a neutral warming impact (as long as the number of UK livestock remains at the same level).
17. Climate change and agricultural policies should therefore be designed to reflect this difference. To affect the largest change, efforts should initially be focussed on reducing the long-living emissions that are produced by animal agriculture eg. carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide. However, the UK's agricultural community must not lose sight of the fact that for methane to continue having a neutral impact, emissions must still fall, but only by 0.3% each year. ¹⁰

Role of the disease eradication schemes

⁸ <https://www.carbonfootprint.com/offset.aspx?o=100>

⁹ Allen, MR, Shine, KP, Fuglestvedt, JS, Millar, RJ, Cain, M, Frame, DJ, & Macey, AH: A solution to the misrepresentations of CO₂-equivalent emissions of shortlived climate pollutants under ambitious mitigation. *npj Climate and Atmospheric Science*, 1(1), 16. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41612-018-0026-8> (2018).

¹⁰ Cain, M., Lynch, J., Allen, Myles R., Fuglestvedt, Jan S., Frame, David J., Macey, Adrian H. Improved calculation of warming-equivalent emissions for short-lived climate pollutants *Climate and Atmospheric Science*. *npj Climate and Atmospheric Science* volume 2, Article number: 29. Available at: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41612-019-0086-4#article-info>

18. It is also important to recognise the role of disease eradication schemes in shortening the production cycle, resulting in positive environmental as well as health and welfare outcomes. Animals with disease take a longer time to reach slaughter weight, therefore national and local government-funded disease eradication schemes (eg for BVD, sheep scab, lameness, as well as vaccination schemes) can have a positive effect on land use by improving animal health and welfare and shortening the production cycle.

How important will the financial payments proposed under the Agriculture Bill be to incentivise actions to reduce, capture and store GHG emissions, and how should the payments system be designed?

19. As a One Health focused profession we would support the use of public money by the Government to incentivise actions to reduce, capture and store GHG emissions.
20. Agricultural policy should support positive animal health and welfare outcomes, good biosecurity and environmental stewardship, which underpin the reputation of UK agricultural produce.
21. Read the full [BVA Veterinary Vision for Post-Brexit Agriculture Policy](#).
22. Further, as the UK leaves the EU, it is important that any future trade deals do not undermine any potential investment in UK agriculture. The House of Lords European Union Committee noted the “greatest threat to farm animal welfare standards post-Brexit would come from UK farmers competing against cheap, imported food from countries that produce to lower standards than the UK.”¹¹
23. We note that the former Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Michael Gove MP, stated that trade deals should not water down the standards that support the reputation of UK produce:

“[People] know that high animal welfare standards and high environmental standards reinforce the marketability of our produce. It would, therefore, be a mistake if in any free trade deal we watered down those standards. We want free trade deals, but we should not tarnish the good name of free trade by associating it with any diminution in those standards.”¹²

24. To ensure domestic animal welfare standards and to support animal welfare globally, the Government must therefore secure the inclusion of high farm animal welfare standards in all trade agreements it negotiates. To do otherwise will invite increased imports of cheaper food from overseas, produced to lower welfare standards.¹³ This will result in significant damage to UK agricultural sustainability, farming businesses across the country and further increase our reliance on imports rather than domestic production. Where opportunities are available to improve the welfare of farmed animals, these must be a primary concern in all future trade deals.

¹¹ House of Lords European Union Committee, Brexit: farm animal welfare 5th Report of Session 2017-19 - published 25 July 2017

¹² Michael Gove MP, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs noted this giving evidence to the House of Lords Select Committee on the European Union Energy and Environment Sub-Committee

¹³ We note the [2009 Efra Committee report on the English Pig Industry](#), which stated: “A level playing field between English pig farmers and their EU counterparts is unlikely to develop in 2013 when the EU ban on stalls and tethers is brought into force as several EU countries are assisting their pig farmers financially to make the necessary changes. The Government must ensure that never again are UK farmers at such a disadvantage compared to their EU counterparts as a result of unilateral national action.” (Paragraph 128)

What support, skills, training and information will land managers need to adapt and thrive; and how should this be provided and funded?

25. The veterinary profession has a clear role to play in supporting their farming clients by advising on, developing and conducting further research into management systems and husbandry practices that work towards sustainable models of production. This is both in terms of positive animal health and welfare, public health and food safety, as well as the local environment and economic sustainability for producers.
26. This role includes taking an evidence-based approach to advising on the practical steps needed to improve existing systems such as building design, husbandry practices, biosecurity, the responsible use of medicines and disease prevention and control mechanisms. In addition, some members of the profession have the skills and capabilities required to fulfil an expert role in these areas on a national, as well as international, platform.
27. BVA is providing leadership in this area and we have developed a BVA sustainability and the veterinary profession action plan (**Annex A**). Through this resource we are encouraging all veterinary surgeons to have a good knowledge of the contributions that the profession can make to the sustainable agriculture agenda; for example, at the levels of individuals (communicating directly to animal keepers and owners), communities (eg. veterinary practices serving as credible and informed animal welfare hubs) and nationally (eg. veterinary associations developing and advocating policy).

How could innovative technologies and farming practices help the agriculture sector achieve net zero? Are they currently commercially viable or is there a viable path to market for them?

Technology and innovation

28. We recognise the role of new technologies and innovative methods in monitoring animal health and welfare outcomes, addressing animal health and welfare conditions and optimising the contribution of each animal to agriculture systems eg. Precision Livestock Farming¹⁴, as well as veterinary interventions such as vaccines for worms, which reduce parasites, result in better livestock growth and therefore result in lower environmental impact. We would welcome the innovative use of existing technologies eg. camera and sensory technologies to generate automated health and welfare outcome measures and monitor and reduce environmental impacts.
29. We would support incentivising uptake and development of innovative technologies to reduce the environmental impact of agriculture and improve animal health and welfare outcomes through UK government funding eg. grants for farms to obtain existing technology or research funding to develop new technologies. For example, producers could be incentivised to harvest the green resources and energy available to them eg. through wind and hydropower.
30. Current examples
In the poultry sector, for example, we are aware that producers have actively adopted different initiatives such as solar (PV) panel installation for generation of electricity and biomass boilers. In the pig sector,

¹⁴ Precision Livestock Farming is the creation of 'a management system based on continuous automatic real-time monitoring and control of production/reproduction, animal health and welfare, and the environmental impact of livestock production'. Berkman, D., 2014 Precision livestock farming technologies for welfare management in intensive livestock systems. Rev. sci. tech. Off. int. Epiz., 2014, 33 (1), 189-196. Available at: <https://www.oie.int/doc/ged/D13666.PDF>

slurry cooling systems are used to significantly lower ammonia emissions and harvest energy for use in other areas of the farm. In addition, slurry flush systems with nitrogen recovery through acid treatment are used in pig production to reduce both nitrogenous loss to the air and the value of the resultant product to spread on the land.

31. However, whilst technologies have the potential to assist in the assessment of health and welfare outcomes and reduce environmental impacts, automatic systems should not replace the regular physical assessment of welfare and behavioural needs and appropriate human interventions for animals by skilled veterinary professionals and keepers.¹⁵ Further, new technologies used to improve the contribution of animals in any given system must not compromise the welfare needs of the animals in question.

‘Future-fit’ animal feed

32. In addition, consideration should be given to enabling the sustainable production of animal feed that will be needed to support animal agriculture. With this in mind, there is a need to progress towards ‘future-fit’ animal feed¹⁶ that minimises competition for land with restorative and biodiversity practices, as well as minimising water use, pollution and overfishing. These aims should be achieved whilst maintaining the current high nutritional value of animal feed in order to continue to support animal health and welfare standards, as well as measures to protect food safety.

What impacts would large-scale changes in land-use have on rural communities and how should the transition be managed to achieve sustainable and just economic, environmental and social outcomes?

33. We would strongly support that due consideration is given to maintaining a thriving rural community while ensuring a fair return for producers and achieving net zero GHG emissions.

What impact would encouraging a shift in diets towards lower red meat and dairy consumption have on agriculture, and how could any negative impacts be mitigated?

Caution against oversimplification

34. We note and support the recent International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) conclusion that:

“Balanced diets, featuring plant-based foods, such as those based on coarse grains, legumes, fruits and vegetables, nuts and seeds, and animal-sourced food produced in resilient, sustainable and low-GHG emission systems, present major opportunities for adaptation and mitigation while generating significant co-benefits in terms of human health.”¹⁷

35. However, we would strongly caution against conflating this conclusion with a recommendation for citizens to eliminate animal-derived products from their diet completely. Such an approach drastically oversimplifies the role of animal agriculture in delivering positive environmental outcomes such as

¹⁵ Farm Animal Welfare Committee (FAWC), 2007. Stockmanship and farm animal welfare., Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fawc-report-on-stockmanship-and-farm-animal-welfare>

¹⁶ Forum for the future, 2018. Feed compass: the feed behind our food. Available at:

[https://www.forumforthefuture.org/sites/default/files/files/feed%20behind%20our%20food_artwork_lr_compressed\(2\).pdf](https://www.forumforthefuture.org/sites/default/files/files/feed%20behind%20our%20food_artwork_lr_compressed(2).pdf)

¹⁷IPCC, 2019. Climate Change and Land <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/srccl/>

improved soil health and water management, protection and conservation of wild species, as well as the cultivation of habitats and biodiversity. The report also recognises this on several instances:

"[...] animal-sourced food produced in resilient, sustainable and low-GHG emission systems present major opportunities for adaptation & mitigation while generating significant co-benefits in terms of human health."

"Different farming and pastoral systems can achieve reductions in the emissions of livestock products. Depending on the farming and pastoral systems and level of development, reductions in the emissions intensity of livestock products may lead to absolute reductions in GHG emissions."

36. Read [the BVA blog Sustainable animal agriculture: Five minutes with Welsh sheep farmer, Huw Llandre](#) for more information on this.

Sustainable consumption

37. In [the BVA position on sustainable animal agriculture](#), we also note and support the Farm Animal Welfare Committee (FAWC)'s observations in regard to sustainable consumption of animal-derived products:

Rather than entailing ever-increasing production to satisfy consumer demand, consideration of sustainability should call into question demand-led developmental models. The per capita consumption and production of meat and animal products would need to fall, or at the very least, the rate of increase in their consumption and production would need to reduce, if these are to be sustainable, especially in the context of a growing global population.¹⁸

38. It is important to recognise that fewer healthier and happier animals¹⁹ with better productivity have less of an impact at all levels compared to numerous animals with poorer health and welfare outcomes. Considering sustainable consumption and production together can therefore have a positive impact on animal welfare and provide an opportunity to drive consumer demand for high animal welfare products, with high environmental standards. As part of this, it is important to avoid oversimplification when considering how different production systems address animal health and welfare needs and recognise that welfare outcomes are not solely dependent on the type or size of different production systems.
39. We are encouraging the veterinary profession to promote the benefits of sustainable consumption, coupled with properly valuing quality animal-derived products, where quality encompasses good animal health and welfare, food safety, environmental protection and fair returns for producers.
40. In this way, [we are promoting the concept of eating "less and better"](#). This concept sees some citizens reducing consumption while maintaining proportional spend and directing this spend towards higher health and welfare products. Retention of proportional spend is key to ensuring that producers are rewarded for the food they are producing, and incentivises high animal health and welfare, as well as environmental standards within production systems.
41. BVA has produced a [position on farm assurance schemes](#) with seven guiding principles to assist its members and the wider public to understand how farm assurance schemes promote higher animal

¹⁸ Farm Animal Welfare committee (FAWC), 2016. *Sustainable agriculture and animal welfare*. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/593479/Advice_about_sustainable_agriculture_and_farm_animal_welfare_-_final_2016.pdf

¹⁹ Where 'happier' denotes animals with positive health and welfare outcomes



health and welfare, as well as the [BVA #ChooseAssured: UK Farm Assurance Schemes Infographic](#) to aid the public in their purchasing choices of high health and welfare products.

How can any reduction in UK-agricultural GHG emissions be achieved without 'offshoring' emissions to other countries via increases in the consumption of imported foods in the UK?

42. We would welcome a government-led education campaign, supported by agricultural, animal health and welfare, and food stakeholders, to encourage UK consumers to buy British produce, and understand the positive environmental and animal health and welfare impacts of doing so.
43. As part of any future trade deals, the UK Government should prioritise maintaining the UK's animal health and welfare and environmental standards to ensure that any products coming into the UK meet the same high standards expected of UK farmers. As policy in this area develops, any progress to reduce UK-agricultural GHG emissions should be reflected in future trade deal negotiations.



Annex A: Sustainability and the veterinary profession: Action Plan



Sustainability and the veterinary profession: Action plan

As an evidence-based, scientific profession there are a multitude of ways that vets can actively contribute to the sustainable animal agriculture agenda. Below BVA sets out a range of activities that vets can undertake at an individual, practice and association level to make a difference through their day-to-day activity.

 INDIVIDUALS	 PRACTICES	 ASSOCIATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Creating farm health and welfare plans to prevent and control disease, increasing efficiency and welfare ● Using benchmarking tools to monitor and reduce, for example, lameness and antibiotic use ● Advising on and promoting higher welfare systems at times of farm investment, such as building redesign ● Always taking a "3Rs" (Replacement, Reduction and Refinement) approach when advising on mutilations – aiming to prevent the need for procedures and using modern analgesia protocols when the procedures are absolutely necessary ● Considering eating "less and better" by reducing consumption of meat while maintaining proportional spend so that this spend is directed towards higher health and welfare products ● Promoting the value of farm assurance schemes. The BVA position on farm assurance schemes and the BVA #ChooseAssured: UK Farm Assurance Schemes Infographic can be used as reference tools when talking to clients or other members of the public about the value of farm assurance schemes and how they can choose ethical and sustainable animal food products ● Upholding existing legislation with regard to protecting public health (the prevention of zoonotic disease), food safety and food hygiene and reporting and monitoring food chain information ● Safeguarding and promoting animal welfare at slaughter and welfare during transport in line with existing legislation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Creating practice policies on mutilations based on the "3Rs" (Replacement, Reduction, Refinement) and modern analgesia protocols ● Distributing educational materials (eg The BVA position on farm assurance schemes and the BVA #ChooseAssured: UK Farm Assurance Schemes Infographic) to help clients make informed and ethical food choices (NB this can be undertaken by all practices, eg companion and equine, as well as farm practices) ● Creating and communicating a practice food procurement policy, to be used, for example, when providing animal-derived food to hospitalised patients, or when selecting venues for staff meetings and gatherings. The BVA food procurement policy, incorporating sustainability of harvest, animal health and welfare, fair conditions for producers and food miles, could be adopted for this purpose ● Offering visits to local politicians and key opinion leaders, to discuss the challenges of future animal agriculture and to advocate the best interests of animals when considering solutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Raising awareness of the challenges facing the global food system, providing thought leadership, opportunities for informed debate, and consistently advocating the importance of animal health and welfare as a sustainable development goal ● Considering the interests of all stakeholders when developing policy related to animal agriculture and ensuring that primary consideration and weight is given to the welfare interests of animals ● Promoting the practical experience, scientific expertise and ethical reasoning abilities of veterinary surgeons to policy makers involved with the future of animal farming ● Collaboratively developing policy on welfare problems affecting farmed animals, as mandated by the BVA animal welfare strategy: vets speaking up for animal welfare ● Developing and signposting evidence-based information to citizens on farm assurance schemes, to enable them to make informed, sustainable and more ethical purchases

A strong voice for vets