

## ANIMAL HEALTH & WELFARE ENDEMIC DISEASE FOLLOW UPS

October 2024

As you will likely be aware, the Improve Animal Health and Welfare Agreement (IAHW) has now been launched. This replaces the Animal Health and Welfare Review released in 2023. The IAHW consists of three Reviews and Endemic Disease Follow Ups and is for a single species. It is designed to help farmers test for endemic diseases and conditions, increase productivity and increase welfare. To be eligible to claim funding the farmer must follow the timeline shown below.

### Who is eligible?

- IAHW is available for Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) eligible farms
- At present the funding is for a SINGLE species.
- The herd/flock must consist of at least 11 beef or dairy cattle or 21 sheep.
- The herd/flock must have the relevant minimum number of eligible animals for any testing required
  - At least 5 cattle aged 9-15 months for BVD antibody testing
  - Any number of dairy cattle for BVD bulk milk tank testing
  - Either 10 lambs <12 months old (all lambs if fewer than 10) for pooled FECRT
- Endemic Disease Follow Ups must be applied for less than 10 months after the on farm visit for a completed Review and can only be carried out for the same species as the review.
- Reviews and Follow Ups can be repeated every 10 months up to three times.
- At present Endemic Disease Follow Ups are not available for dairy cattle.

### How do you apply?

Once your claim for a Review has been approved you can apply for a Follow Up. Visit the gov.uk website:

[Get funding to improve animal health and welfare - GOV.UK \(defra.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/get-funding-to-improve-animal-health-and-welfare)

You will need to provide:

- your customer reference number (CRN)
- the SBI number of the business registering for the review
- the business email address linked to the business registering for the review
- your Rural Payments Service password

It is up to you as a farmer to apply – this is not something that your vet practice can do on your behalf. Similarly, whilst your vet will provide a report and results following the visit(s), it is the farmer's responsibility to send the report in order to receive the payment.

## Timeline

- 1) Do a Review for a single species
  - a. Wait at least 10 months between your Reviews (from the date entered on your submitted claim)
- 2) Claim for the Review
- 3) Do a Follow Up for the same species
  - a. Less than 10 months after the Review (from the date entered on your submitted claim)
  - b. Wait at least 10 months between your Follow ups
- 4) Claim for a Follow up
- 5) Repeat sequence for second and third Reviews and Follow ups for the same species
- 6) All Review and Follow Up visits must be completed by **19 June 2027**.
- 7) The final completion date for all Reviews and Follow ups is **19 September 2027**.

## What do the Follow Up visits involve?

As with the Review, a portion of the funding must be spent on testing for a specific disease problem which varies with each species.

## Sheep

Funding available £639

The sheep endemic disease funding is very broad so we can most likely make any of the packages fit your farm.

To claim funding you must test for at least one disease from one of the following sheep health packages

- Ewe condition
  - Aims to improve overall health and performance of ewes on farm and subsequent tugging and lambing
- Reproductive performance
  - Aims to increase numbers of successful pregnancies and reduce abortion rate
- Lamb performance
  - Aims to reduce disease levels in lambs over 30 days old
- Neonatal lamb survival
  - Aims to reduce disease levels and increase survival in lambs under 30 days old
- External parasites

- Aims to reduce levels of external parasites and associated welfare concerns
- Lameness
  - Aims to reduce lameness levels regardless of cause

Please discuss with your vet which sheep health package would be most beneficial to your flock to determine the most appropriate diseases/conditions to test for. You can also discuss biosecurity and recommendations about medicines.

## **Beef**

Funding available is dependent on the outcome of BVD testing from your Review

- £837 if the Review testing has shown presence of BVD
  - You must do a persistently infected (PI) hunt on all cattle in the herd using blood sampling for virus or tissue sampling via button tags or a combination of the two (you cannot use results of tissue or blood sampling which was done before the Follow Up)
  - You and your vet must complete a BVD-focussed biosecurity assessment
- £215 if the Review testing has not shown presence of BVD
  - No further testing is required
  - You and your vet must complete a BVD-focussed biosecurity assessment

## **Dairy**

Funding for Follow Ups is not yet available for dairy

- £1714 if the Review testing has shown presence of BVD
  - You must do a persistently infected (PI) hunt on all cattle in the herd using blood sampling for virus or tissue sampling via button tags or a combination of the two (you cannot use results of tissue or blood sampling which was done before the Follow Up)
  - You and your vet must complete a BVD-focussed biosecurity assessment
- £215 if the Review testing has not shown presence of BVD
  - No further testing is required
  - You and your vet must complete a BVD-focussed biosecurity assessment

## **What happens if I applied for my Review before 19<sup>th</sup> June 2024?**

- If you applied for your review before 19<sup>th</sup> June 2024 the agreement number will start AHWR, not IAHW. If this is the case you can still get the Follow Up funding more or less straight away if you do as follows:
  - Claim for your current agreement Review
  - Once the claim has been completed (paid), sign up within 10 months of the date entered on your submitted Review claim
  - This will give you a new agreement number with IAHW prefix
  - It will register the fact that you have done a review within the last 10 months and therefore will unlock the endemics package

- Any endemics package testing needs to be done AFTER you have the new agreement number

### **Is it possible to change the species for my Review?**

If you have completed a Review under the old AHWR process you are eligible to apply for a new IAHW agreement at any time.

- If the previous Review date was less than 10 months ago, you are initially only eligible to complete a Follow-up visit. This would need to be on the same species you claimed for under your AHWR agreement. You would then be able to complete a further Review 10 month after the previous. If you choose to complete a follow up, this has then started the IAHW process and any further Review or Follow-up visits will need to remain on this species.
- If you wish to start the Review/Follow-up visit process on a new species, you will need to wait for 10 months from your previous AHWR Review date. This will allow you to start the IAHW process from the beginning with a different species.

### **Medicine Hub**

You will need to record your medicines on the AHDB medicine hub. You can sign up to this here: <https://ahdb.org.uk/medicine-hub>

You can then nominate Calweton Vets to have third party access.

### **How do I get the payment?**

Once the work has been completed, your vet will provide a visit report and lab results along with their RCVS number. You will need to submit this. You will then receive the payment.