



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

**WRITTEN QUESTION
FOR ANSWER BY THE MINISTER FOR
ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY AND RURAL AFFAIRS
ON 8 OCTOBER 2020**

Janet Finch-Saunders (Aberconwy): Will the Minister outline her assessment of the benefits of a population-level approach to preventative livestock health, and whether she has plans to incorporate a preventative animal health programme in the forthcoming Welsh agriculture bill? (WQ81162)

Lesley Griffiths: The continual improvements process of Animal Health Planning (AHP) is a key part of our Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework, 2014-2024. It reflects our desire that all livestock units in Wales utilise AHP as an essential part of their business based on a key principle that “prevention is better than cure”. AHP brings benefits to individual farm businesses and wider industry by improving animal health and welfare standards, increased productivity and profits plus the assurance of greater business resilience.

There are two key Animal Health Planning initiatives currently being funded by the Rural Development Programme: Herd Advance (dairy cattle) and Stoc+ (beef cattle and sheep). They are driving farmer and vet led animal health planning to make health improvements in several hundred herds and flocks across Wales, with a view to rolling out the tried, tested and cost-benefit assessed approaches to all livestock farms in Wales.

AHP has also been included as an integral part of the Sustainable Farming Scheme – where livestock keepers are incentivised and assisted to implement AHP. The Sustainable Farming Scheme will be underpinned by major legislative acts such as the Welsh Agriculture Bill.

Please see below an illustration of the Welsh Government's approach to Animal health Planning:

