

# The Science behind “Preparing for Sustainable Farming”

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# The problem...

How to justify funding livestock health interventions as part of SG's

“Preparing for Sustainable Farming” initiative?

- COP26 announcement: farming needs to become more sustainable. Post EU-Exit SG has chosen to continue to support Scottish farmers
- One of the main aims is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture, notably from ruminants
- PSF started in 2022 as a three year programme to encourage a move towards more sustainable, regenerative farming. Specifically: promoting carbon audits and soil analysis
- In March 2022, the Cabinet Secretary asked for livestock health and welfare interventions to add-in to years 2 and 3 of PSF.
- Justifiable? And if so, which interventions?

# ...the solution...

Work already done by the Moredun Research Institute and others, including the SEFARI Livestock Health and GHG Specialist Advisory Group

- “Acting on Methane” report in April 2022, the combined output from the SEFARI Specialist Advisory Group and the industry’s Ruminant Health and Welfare Group
- Existing portfolio of work on greenhouse gas impact from livestock disease, mostly funded via SG’s Strategic Research Programme
- Moredun’s expertise was available on demand to the SG policy team
- Moredun joined the ARIOB animal health and welfare subgroup to develop credible PSF Interventions

# ...and why it worked!

A strategic approach to commissioning research combined with long-standing relationships between SG and the research institutes

- 2006 – SG research management unit introduced climate change as a target for collaborative projects
- Regular meetings build trust. Progress is made through good relationships and “critical friends”. Team effort: ideas come from both sides
- Moredun’s focus on research outcomes that translate into action on-farm
- SG Ministerial *and* policy change in attitude: livestock disease is now recognized as costly in GHG terms

# And in case you were wondering:

By the start of 2023, nine Animal Health and Welfare Interventions were available to livestock farmers

- Interventions tackled common production diseases of sheep and cattle using well-proven investigations. Included worms, fluke, sheep scab and respiratory disease
- The Interventions have been well-received by farmers and their vets
- Between 1 Jan 2023 and 12 Aug 2024 2,831 claims had been received, which equates to £1, 097,500
- PSF will remain open to the end of the year, we are hopeful for continuing engagement from farmers and vets

# THANK YOU



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SEFARI 

The SEFARI logo consists of a stylized sunburst or starburst shape with multiple colored rays (yellow, orange, red) extending from a central point.