

New approaches for training and capacity building

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Innovation for Sustainable
Sheep and Goat
Production in Europe



National Sheep Association

THE ORGANIC
RESEARCH
CENTRE



ELM FARM

NSA Next Generation Programme



Supports innovative and enthusiastic young people

Young shepherds

Future Shepherds

Training Events Advice



NSA Next Generation Ambassador Programme

Up to 12 people selected annually from England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, meet likeminded people throughout the UK and form networks for the future

Five sessions, 2-3 days, range of topics encouraging personal and technical development

Equip with skills to manage profitable and sustainable flocks
Support and promote the sheep industry

Meet key people within the sheep sector
Share experiences



NSA Next Generation Ambassador Programme

Benefits to Ambassadors

More confident and competent

Better understanding of different systems and knowledge of industry

Ability to question

Peer – peer networks and friendships

Direct interaction with NSA

Information

*“what you think is best
for you is not
necessarily best for the
industry”*



NSA Next Generation Ambassador Programme

Benefits to NSA

Competent sheep farmers

Active ambassadors for the industry

Ambassadors stay in touch, support their networks and the industry

60% industry activities

46% regional committees



Flock Health Clubs



Initiated 2016

Vet facilitated sheep farmer groups

- Improved relationship between the vet and their sheep farmers
- Greater involvement of the vet with more flocks
- Farmers receive cost-effective veterinary advice
- Monthly 'club subscriptions' provide a steady income

Evaluating the impact of Flock Health Clubs (FHC)

Farmer views

85% felt that membership fees are value for money

88% highlighted that the main benefit was the ability to develop and exchange knowledge between other farmers and their club vet

No farmers surveyed felt that there were any disadvantages to membership



Evaluating the impact of Flock Health Clubs (FHC)

Farmer views

85.2% said that FHCs facilitated positive changes in their knowledge levels

77.8% noted positive changes within their management practices

66.7% had improved their relationship with the vets and their likelihood of calling them had increased



Evaluating the impact of Flock Health Clubs (FHC)

Vet views

Members often from top 5-10% flocks and innovative

Better relationships and interaction, pro-active management

Better health on farm; reduced parasites burdens and lameness

Encouraged increased sheep knowledge



Thankyou

