Moredun

www.moredun.org.uk

The Moredun Foundation is a company limited by guarantee, registered in Scotland No. SC151865.
The Moredun Foundation is a charity registered in Scotland, No. SC022515.
Address: Pentlands Science Park, Bush Loan, Penicuik, Midlothian, Scotland, EH26 0PZ.

3.200/JTCP

Moredun magazine

ISSUE 32 | AUTUMN/WINTER 2026

Moredun



TMF Forum: Vaccine Equity for Livestock Debate

Sustainable Parasite Control with SPARC

Out & About - catch up with our summer events

www.moredun.org.uk

Contents

In this Issue:

p1-5 News

p6 SPARCing Change: Learning Together To Support Sustainable Parasite Control Across Europe

p8 Island Dippers: How a Community United to Tackle Sheep Scab in Lewis & Harris

p9 New Moredun project to detect *Toxoplasma gondii* in water

p9 Equine Grass Sickness Fund Update

p10 Out and About

p12 Spotlight - Meet Moredun's newest recruits

p13 2026 Christmas cards now on sale



Director's comment



It has been another busy period for Moredun, and this issue highlights the breadth of work, achievements and collaborations taking place across the organisation.

A particular highlight was welcoming Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal to Moredun. With a focus on livestock vaccine equity, the visit provided an opportunity to showcase our research, surveillance activities and facilities, while highlighting pressing issues around current and future vaccine supply. The event provoked not only interesting discussions but importantly, suggested solutions on how to improve vaccine availability for our farmed livestock.

This issue also celebrates the accomplishments of colleagues across Moredun. We recognise notable honours and awards, including Philip Skuce's appointment as Professor, and The Moredun Foundation Prizes awarded to veterinary students throughout the UK and Ireland. At the same time, we pay tribute to long-serving colleagues whose dedication and commitment have helped shape Moredun over many years.

You will also find updates on key research activities, including progress within the SPARC programme, new funding to develop a tool for detecting *Toxoplasma* in environmental samples, and the launch of a documentary capturing the impact of the Lewis and Harris sheep scab control programme.

Finally, from major agricultural events and industry shows to welcoming new colleagues, this issue reflects the strong partnerships, expertise and people that continue to drive Moredun forward.



Prof Tom McNeilly
Scientific Director and Chief Executive

Moredun Magazine

Moredun magazine is produced twice a year and is available free of charge.

Designed and Produced by Moredun Communications Centre ©2026.

All images, unless otherwise stated, are ©Moredun.

To subscribe, contact:
Moredun Communications Team,
Pentlands Science Park, Bush Loan,
Penicuik, Midlothian EH26 0PZ

Comments, ideas, suggestions?
Get in touch and let us know.

Please contact:
Moredun Communications Team,
Pentlands Science Park, Bush Loan,
Penicuik, Midlothian EH26 0PZ

tel: +44 (0)131 445 5111
fax:+44 (0)131 445 6111

email: info@moredun.org.uk
web: www.moredun.org.uk
Social Media:

The Moredun Foundation is a company limited by guarantee, registered in Scotland No. SC151865.

The Moredun Foundation is a charity registered in Scotland, No: SC022515
Address: Pentlands Science Park, Bush Loan, Penicuik, Midlothian EH26 0PZ

Cover image:
Sunset on Lewis and Harris
photo: *gbs097*

The Moredun Foundation Forum: Vaccine Equity for Livestock

This year's TMF Forum focused on vaccine equity and how farmers can get and use effective vaccines regardless of where they farm and how big or small the market is. The event brought together delegates from across the industry to discuss the barriers to vaccine access and how these can be overcome.



Farmers, vets, manufacturers, regulators and researchers came together to discuss vaccine equity at this years TMF Forum.

Chaired by journalist Simon Cousins, the panel discussed why vaccine availability depends on more than just scientific research and vaccine development. Many factors, including research, investment, regulatory requirements, manufacturing and distribution channels all influence whether a vaccine is available for farmers to access and use when they need it. A vaccine can be effective, and authorised for use, yet still not be readily available if demand is uncertain or if there is no commercial case for production.

The planned withdrawal of Bovilis® Huskvac, the UK's only licensed lungworm vaccine was discussed as an example. Losing an effective preventative tool like this can have a massive knock-on effect by increasing reliance on therapeutics leading to increased drug resistance and environmental impacts as well as potential animal welfare issues.

We were honoured to welcome Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal, Patron of The Moredun Foundation, who heard from Moredun Board Member and Regional Advisors Group Chair Scott Brown about the impact of vaccine shortages on farmers and livestock. Scott described the issues the farmers in his region were facing as a direct consequence of lack of vaccines.

Dr Stew Burgess, Head of Vaccines and Diagnostics at Moredun shared details of the vaccine work currently in progress at the institute. Moredun are well-known for their work in developing new vaccines and working closely with the farming community, Dr Burgess' highlights included the new Louping Ill vaccine, development of an improved vaccine for Barber's Pole Worm as well as sheep scab and tick-borne fever vaccines.

Her Royal Highness completed her visit with a tour of the laboratories where she learned more about the vaccines in development and the diagnostic tests used in the Veterinary Surveillance Unit. She also met with invited guests from across the livestock industry in the atrium to hear more about their work.



Guests included representatives from all sectors of the livestock industry. Pictured: Tim Connelley, Roslin Institute and Rich Mole, Moredun.



HRH was introduced to the panelists after the discussion. Pictured: Rob Howe and Lois Muraguri.



HRH, The Princess Royal enjoyed a private tour of the laboratories and speaking to researchers.

News

Congratulations to Professor Philip Skuce

Moredun is delighted to congratulate Dr Philip Skuce on being awarded an Honorary Professorship by Scotland's Rural College (SRUC), recognising his outstanding contribution to livestock health research and the agricultural sector.

Philip has worked at Moredun for more than 30 years and is widely recognised for his expertise in livestock parasites, particularly liver fluke and gastrointestinal worms. As leader of Moredun's fluke research, he has played a key role in tackling some of the major challenges facing the livestock industry, from understanding parasite epidemiology and improving diagnostics to addressing the growing threat of anthelmintic resistance. His research has contributed to a better understanding of parasitic diseases and helped develop practical, evidence-based approaches to parasite control, supporting healthier livestock and more sustainable farming systems.

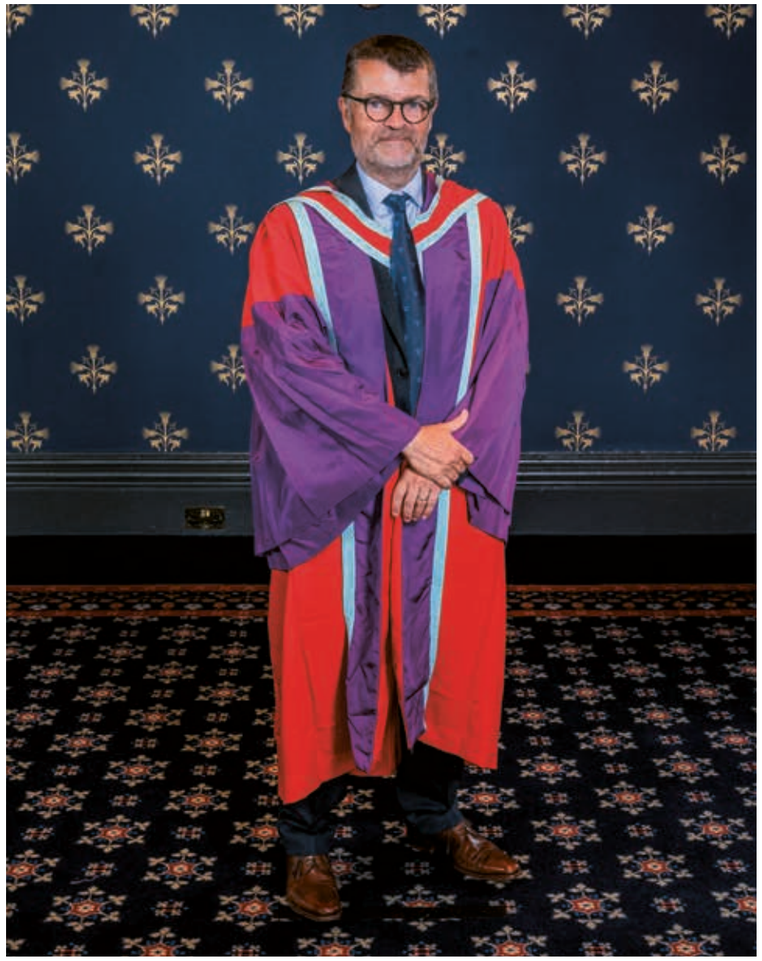
While Philip's scientific achievements are considerable, what many colleagues and industry partners value most is his commitment to ensuring research makes a difference beyond the laboratory. Throughout his career, he has worked tirelessly to translate scientific findings into practical advice that can be applied on farms. Through his involvement with organisations such as SCOPS and COWS, as well as countless seminars, webinars, workshops, podcasts and agricultural events, Philip has helped ensure that the latest research and advice reach the people who need it most.

In his leadership roles within SEFARI, Philip has also built strong links among researchers, policymakers, veterinarians and farmers. He has helped ensure that scientific evidence informs both policy and practice, shaping industry guidance and contributing to national and international efforts to improve sustainable parasite control while reinforcing the connection between science, policy and farming.

Alongside his professionalism and expertise, Philip is known for his generosity with his time; he is hugely supportive of colleagues and students and always brings a healthy sense of humour and good craic to whatever he does. He is a highly valued collaborator, mentor and communicator, and many readers will know him from the shows, workshops and industry events he has attended across the country over the years.

Throughout his career, Philip has been an outstanding ambassador for Moredun, championing not only scientific excellence but also practical solutions that support farmers and the wider livestock industry. This Honorary Professorship is a fitting recognition of his long-standing commitment to improving animal health and welfare through research and knowledge exchange, and of the lasting impact he has had on all of us fortunate enough to work alongside him.

Congratulations, Professor Skuce!



Dr Philip Skuce awarded an Honorary Professorship by Scotland's Rural College (SRUC).

Farewell to Beth and Leigh after 17 years at Moredun



Dr Beth Wells retired from Moredun earlier this year after 17 years with the Group.

This year, we said goodbye to two long-serving colleagues as they retired from Moredun.

Dr Beth Wells retired after 17 years at Moredun. Beth first joined the Moredun Research Institute to undertake a PhD on sheep scab before moving into protozoology, where she worked on *Cryptosporidium*. Later, she joined the communications team, becoming a familiar and respected figure throughout the agricultural industry. Beth plays a pivotal role in supporting the Louping Ill Virus vaccine campaign, and much of the funding success can be attributed to her dedication, expertise, and tireless efforts. Her enthusiasm and commitment have left a lasting impact on both Moredun and the wider livestock sector. Beth will stay connected to Moredun through her Fellowship, role on the EGSF board and as a consultant for the LIV vaccine work.

Leigh Andrews joined Moredun in 2009 and spent many years as a highly valued member of the parasitology team. As a long-standing member of the group, Leigh was heavily involved in trial work, spending countless hours collecting, processing and analysing samples, and counting larvae. In more recent years, she became the Institute's leading entomologist, studying flies as part of several key research projects. Leigh was also an active member of the 3Rs Committee and was committed to animal welfare, working hard to ensure that the animals in her care experienced enriched and positive lives throughout their time on study. Her knowledge, dedication and support will be greatly missed by colleagues across the organisation.

We thank Beth and Leigh for their many years of service and wish them both every happiness and success in the next chapter of their lives.



Leigh Andrews was a dedicated and knowledgeable member of the parasitology team at Moredun.

Help Shape the Future of Moredun

Over the coming year, the Moredun Research Institute (MRI) will be recruiting up to four new Non-Executive Directors/Trustees to join its Board.

This is an exciting opportunity to contribute to the strategic direction of one of the UK's leading animal health research organisations and help support Moredun's mission to improve animal health, welfare and sustainable livestock production.

We are particularly interested in hearing from individuals with senior leadership experience and expertise in areas such as scientific research and innovation; livestock farming or veterinary practice; government and policy development; or representation of the agricultural, scientific, research or policy communities.

Board members play a key role in providing strategic oversight, independent challenge and governance support, helping to ensure that the Institute continues to deliver impact through its research and engagement activities.

Appointments are initially for a three-year term. The Board normally meets four times each year, with occasional additional strategic sessions. As a charitable organisation, these roles are voluntary, although reasonable expenses are reimbursed.

*If you are interested in helping to shape the future of MRI, or would like to learn more about the role, please contact the Company Secretary, Rosie Stewart (***rosie.stewart@moredun.org.uk***).*

News

Advancement of Veterinary Science Award for Moredun's CEO

Professor Tom McNeilly has been honoured with one of the British Veterinary Association's most distinguished accolades, the Dalrymple-Champneys Cup and Medal, recognising a member who has helped to advance veterinary science and medicine through research and knowledge sharing.



Prof. Tom McNeilly was awarded the Dalrymple-Champneys Cup by the BVA. Pictured with Dr Rob Williams BVA president (c) The British Veterinary Association.

Prof. McNeilly has helped shape our understanding of mucosal immunology in ruminants, exploring how animals defend themselves at the most vulnerable biological interfaces. His work has opened new pathways for disease control, from parasitic infections to viral threats affecting livestock.

His world-leading research publication in "Vaccine" - successful immunization against a parasitic nematode by vaccination with recombinant proteins, stands as a milestone in veterinary vaccinology.

In receiving the award, Prof. McNeilly emphasised the collective nature of scientific progress, thanking mentors, colleagues and collaborators, and his family for their support.

Sustainable Control of Haemonchosis in UK Livestock Grazing Systems (FAMACHA Card Training)

A practical online short course has been designed to help sustainably manage haemonchosis using the FAMACHA scoring method.

The course gives participants valuable knowledge to integrate control strategies and support animal health and effective gut worm control across UK flocks and herds.

- Benefits of this online short course:
- Access modules anytime, at your own pace
- Inclusive course fee of £60
- Supports sustainable parasite health planning for sheep, goats and camelids
- Training manual and video case studies
- Two FAMACHA cards

This course is designed for vets, farmers, livestock keepers and animal health professionals, including suitably qualified persons (SQPs) authorised to sell anti-parasitic treatments.

If you're involved in livestock health and want to strengthen your parasite control strategies, this course offers a valuable addition to your skills.

https://www.shortcourses.ed.ac.uk/course/famacha



Barber's Pole worm is a blood-feeding stomach roundworm infecting sheep.

The Moredun Foundation Prize

For many years the Moredun Foundation has awarded a prize to the student whom the university deems to have performed best in large animal practice throughout the course of their studies

Moredun has been presenting this award to students at both Glasgow University and Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies in Edinburgh for many years and over the years has expanded this award to other veterinary schools in the UK and Ireland.



The Moredun Foundation Prize - Ryan RDVS.

The award is decided by the university and is presented by the college at the graduation ceremony each year. The prize consists of a copy of the 'Diseases of Sheep' book, signed by its editors, Professor Ian Aitken and Dr Bill Martin. A years free membership to the Moredun Foundation is also included in this prize.



Moredun Prize winner - Taylor Bartoschek with Tom Neilly & Christopher Loughrey.

Honorary Fellowships for Beth Wells, Kate Richards and Sir Muir Russell

The Moredun Foundation awarded three honorary fellowships to Dr Beth Wells, Dr Kate Richards and Sir Muir Russell at its AGM on Thursday, 3rd September, in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the Moredun Group.

The Moredun Foundation awarded three honorary fellowships to Dr Beth Wells, Dr Kate Richards and Sir Muir Russell at its AGM on Thursday, 3rd September, in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the Moredun Group.

Kate joined TMF board in 2013, is a founder member of the Moredun Health & Safety Oversight Committee and Chair of the Group Audit Committee. Sir Muir Russell was appointed Chairman of the Moredun Research Institute in 2020. Dr Beth Wells first joined Moreudn in 2009 and has worked in a variety of roles.



Beth Wells and Kate Richards were presented with their honorary fellowships at The Moredun Foundation AGM.

Research

SPARCing Change: Learning Together To Support Sustainable Parasite Control Across Europe



SPARC cross-visit participants on their visit to North Somerset, England, and surrounding areas.

Parasitic roundworms cost the European livestock sector more than €1.5 billion annually and can impact livestock health, welfare and productivity. Control relies heavily on the use of anthelmintics but increasing resistance to these chemicals is driving the need for more sustainable worm control strategies which are less reliant on these products, such as targeted treatments, selective breeding and pasture management.

This challenge is at the heart of SPARC (Sustainable Parasite Control in Grazing Ruminants), a European initiative bringing together researchers, veterinarians, farmers and industry representatives from more than ten countries. Over the past year, Moredun staff, Drs Dave Bartley and Agata Delnicka, have been working closely with farmers, vets, academic researchers and other stakeholders to promote sustainable approaches to managing roundworm infections and encouraging knowledge exchange across the livestock sector.

A key aspect of the project is facilitating discussions and collaboration between stakeholders to strengthen knowledge exchange and inspire new ideas – both within the UK as well as across Europe. This year, the UK team hosted a delegation of farmers, vets and researchers from the Netherlands, France, and Northern Ireland on a trip to south-west England. Over two days, the group heard presentations, engaged in group discussions and visited farms to explore how sustainable worm control strategies are being implemented in practice in UK farms.

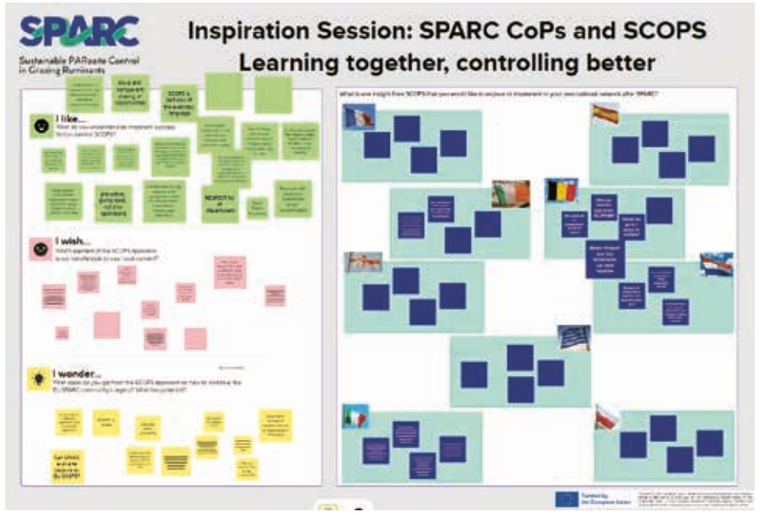
Kevin Harrison, the farmer chair of SCOPS (Sustainable Control of Parasites in Sheep) and SPARC UK ambassador, discussed the challenges posed to the sheep sector by anthelmintic resistance and led an open discussion on the barriers and opportunities surrounding sustainable worm control adoption. Participants explored issues familiar across Europe, including labour availability, competing farm priorities and the challenge of balancing long-term sustainability with day-to-day management decisions. This was followed by a farm visit to understand Kevin's sheep management strategy and how the use of tools such as Faecal Egg Counts (FEC) can guide worm treatment decisions.

Samuel Boon, Senior Animal Breeding Manager at Signet Breeding Services, and George Cullimore, Lleyn sheep breeder, discussed breeding sheep for worm resistance using FEC and serum IgA and the latest progress in these areas, including the use of genomics in breeding programmes.

Phillipa Page, a consultant sheep vet at Flock Health Ltd and president of the Sheep Veterinary Society, provided an insightful veterinary perspective highlighting the role vets play in supporting farmers to adopt more sustainable parasite control strategies, while ensuring flock health, welfare and productivity remain central to decision-making.

The program also featured farm visits to local farms who discussed their enterprises and their worm control strategies. Martyn Fletcher and Perin Dineley of Dineley Farming, kindly welcomed the group to discuss their worm control management strategy within their flock of Romney sheep, including the use of targeted selective treatment (TST) and grazing management. This was followed by a visit to see Tim White and Jack Horn, Sheep Improved Genetics Ltd, to hear about breeding Exlana sheep for increased worm resistance and other traits such as wool shedding.

These farm visits sparked many interesting conversations, from discussions about resistance and resilience of sheep to worm infections, the use of technology in worm control and monitoring production, to the differences between high- and low-input/output systems and enterprise profitability.



SPARC members reflected on the success of SCOPS in the UK and identified ideas, opportunities and priorities for strengthening sustainable parasite control networks across Europe.

Alongside these in-person activities, Moredun has also led a knowledge-sharing sessions for SPARC members exploring the inception, development and future of SCOPS in the UK. The sessions included contributions from members of the SCOPS steering group including representatives from the pharmaceutical industry, farmers' union, veterinary profession, farming community and academic institutions like Moredun. The session highlighted how collaboration, discussion and respect for differing opinions has helped drive improvements in sustainable parasite control over the last two decades and allowed participants from other countries to explore whether similar collaborative models could be developed within their own countries.

Ultimately, SPARC is about bringing people together. By connecting farmers, vets, researchers and industry organisations, the project is helping to build the networks, knowledge and practical solutions needed to tackle anthelmintic resistance. As the livestock industry works towards a more sustainable future, these collaborative efforts will be critical in protecting both animal health and the long-term effectiveness of the tools available to control parasites.



On-farm group discussions about parasite control and management.



Visiting Tim White to learn about breeding Exlana sheep for worm resistance.

For further information and advice on sustainable parasite control visit:
SPARC – **www.wormsparc.com**
SCOPS (Sustainable Control Of Parasites in Sheep) – **www.scops.org.uk**
COWS (Control Of Worms Sustainably) – **www.cattleparasites.org.uk**

Research

Island Dippers: How a Community United to Tackle Sheep Scab in Lewis & Harris



The project brought different generations and villages together again.

Sheep scab remains one of the most persistent and costly diseases affecting the UK sheep industry, and in Lewis & Harris, the challenge had become increasingly difficult to manage. Rising case numbers, shared grazing systems, and the practical difficulties of gathering sheep across remote island landscapes meant that tackling the disease required far more than individual action. The answer came through the Lewis & Harris Sheep Scab Control Project, a pioneering community-led initiative that brought together crofters, veterinarians, scientists, industry partners and government to take on the disease collectively.

Led by scientists from Moredun, along with the Lewis and Harris Sheep Producers Association, The Old Mill Veterinary Practice, Scottish Government, local crofters, Neil Fell Mobile Dipping Ltd, and with support from Zoetis Ltd and Bimeda Ltd, the initiative adopted a regional "hotspot" approach to disease control. Mobile dipping units travelled across the islands while local coordinators worked closely with crofters to organise testing, treatment and the gathering of sheep from widely dispersed common grazings. The result was one of the most ambitious sheep scab control programmes ever undertaken in Scotland.

To capture the scale and significance of the project, filmmaker Als Couzens produced Island Dippers, a powerful documentary that goes beyond the practicalities of disease control to tell a deeper story about the people behind the project. Through interviews and footage gathered throughout the campaign, the film follows the journey from planning and preparation through to the completion of the dipping programme, highlighting the determination, cooperation and resilience of the island community.

What emerges most strongly from the film is the sense of community that underpins crofting life in the Western Isles. Neighbours helped neighbours, families worked side by side, and villages came together to achieve a common goal. For many involved, the project became about far more than controlling sheep scab. It strengthened relationships, encouraged knowledge sharing, rebuilt traditional working practices and demonstrated what can be achieved when communities work collectively.

As one crofter reflected: *"It was really encouraging to see both young and old working together in the fank again. The older generation had fond memories of big village fanks, which, in many areas of Lewis, aren't as common practice anymore. The younger generation was in awe of seeing everyone working together. In addition, it brought neighbouring villages together."*

By placing these personal experiences at the heart of the story, Als Couzens' documentary reveals the project's lasting legacy. While sheep scab control was the catalyst, the true achievement lies in the relationships strengthened, the confidence restored and the community spirit rekindled across Lewis & Harris. It stands as a compelling example of how science, collaboration and local commitment can come together to solve complex challenges and safeguard the future of island sheep farming.



The film follows the journey from planning to completion highlighting the sense of community.

Sheep Scab: Test, Don't Guess

The MRI Sheep Scab ELISA Test can be accessed through the Wales Veterinary Science Centre (WVSC) in Aberystwyth. The test can be used to diagnose sheep scab and monitor flock status, aiding disease control programmes.

For further information contact the WVSC:
www.wvsc.wales

Equine Grass Sickness Fund Update

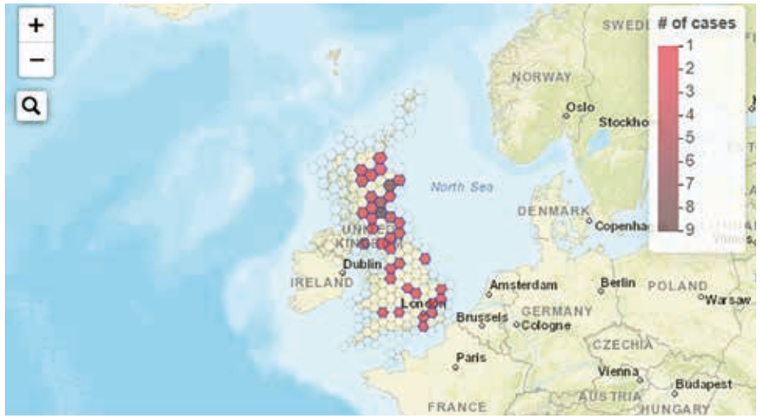
Seventeen cases of equine grass sickness (EGS) have been reported throughout August and September, including an outbreak of five cases in South-West Scotland. At the time of writing, 81 cases of EGS had been reported throughout the whole of the UK in 2026. At least 74 (91%) were fatal. The high number of cases this year has underlined the critical nature of EGS research, which is vital to reduce cases and prevent suffering. The number of reported cases is the "tip of the iceberg," as many more may go unreported. Please do keep reporting and submitting samples to help our research.

Unfortunately, beyond 2028 there is no further money available to begin new projects, currently The EGSF is currently focused on three main projects:

- 1) Katie Offer - European and RCVS Specialist in Equine Internal Medicine – has recently begun a PhD at the University of Glasgow in partnership with the EGSF. The main aim of Katie's project is to investigate subclinical changes in horses co-grazing with confirmed acute EGS cases with the aim of understanding the aetiology and pathogenesis of the disease. In addition, she will be microscopically examining post-mortem tissues and focusing on the microbial composition of gastric reflux.
- 2) Dr Tanith Harte is continuing her work on organoids following the authorship of several papers. Organoids are tiny clusters of cells which represent the original organ they were grown from (e.g. intestine, stomach). They are grown in the laboratory and will (hopefully) eventually be used as a model to study EGS, narrow down causal agents and improve our knowledge of the disease. Importantly, Tanith has cultured organoids with samples originating from horses that had contracted EGS.
- 3) Brenda Moita is a PhD student at the University of Surrey. Her project is focused on analysing equine urine and blood samples to identify potential targets for future diagnostic tests. Brenda is using archived samples from the EGSF Biobank, which is kindly funded by the BHS, as well as working with local vets to collect additional samples. Brenda has already made good progress in her analysis and has begun drafting her first peer-reviewed scientific journal article.

These projects are important and ground-breaking, but we can't continue without further donations. If you follow us on social media, you will have seen the stories our researchers and committee members have shared about their experiences with EGS. We hope these stories will help encourage supporters to donate so that we can continue our research in the coming years.

Please donate here if you are able:
https://bit.ly/EGSF_Donate



EGSF Risk Map - it is important to note that cases occur throughout the UK (c) John Dewar at jData.

New Moredun project to detect *Toxoplasma gondii* in water

As part of a new NERC (Natural Environment Research Council) funded project Moredun researchers Dr Frank Katzer and Kevin McLean, led by Dr Clare Hamilton, plan to develop a tool that water companies and regulators can use as part of routine water quality checks to help protect people, animals, ecosystems and water resources in a changing climate.

Toxoplasmosis is a zoonotic disease impacting public, veterinary and wildlife health. Infections can cause severe disease in pregnant women and immunocompromised individuals as well as being a leading cause of reproductive losses in sheep. Shed by cats in faeces, the oocysts (eggs) of *T. gondii* are hardy and can survive for long periods of time in the environment, and if people or animals ingest these oocysts, they may become infected.



Water sample collection in Glenlivet.

Understanding the role of environmental transmission in *T. gondii* infection is limited as we currently lack reliable methods to detect and visualise oocysts, especially in environmental samples. The team plans to develop a highly specific and sensitive tool that uses antibody-coated magnetic beads to capture oocysts from environmental samples, allowing them to be collected and analysed in greater detail.

Out and About

Sunshine and science at the UK's biggest regen farming festival



Groundswell 2025.

Groundswell, the UK's largest and best-known regenerative agriculture event marked its 10th anniversary in July this year. Held at Lannock Farm in Hertfordshire, the two-day festival brings together farmers, researchers and industry professionals to explore how food and fibre production can work alongside environmental sustainability and have a positive impact on the soil and land. This year, Moredun attended for the first time, aiming to learn more about the science and practice of regenerative agriculture and to share our knowledge on livestock parasites.

The Moredun Biobus proved a popular attraction throughout the event, with visitors getting hands-on experience of conducting roundworm faecal egg counts (FEC). Many farmers were impressed how easy it was and vowed to give it a go when they got home. We also shared guides, factsheets and other resources to help with monitoring parasite burdens on their own farms. Roundworms, fluke and ticks were the main topic of conversation for many, alongside discussions about the challenges created by the hot, dry summer that made the festival very pleasant but a difficult time for many farmers.

Although busy on the bus, there was the opportunity to take advantage of the many events and speak with farmers, organisations and other stakeholders about Moredun's ongoing research into grazing management and parasite control.

One highlight was a session from Pasture for Life on the gap between farmers' lived experience and scientific evidence. Many observations valued by farmers, such as animal behaviour and biodiversity, can be difficult to measure accurately. One example showed that insect traps may record fewer insects in flower-rich areas because pollinators are attracted to the flowers instead. The key takeaway was the need for stronger collaboration between farmers and researchers to help shape future research – an approach which we heartily endorse!

A recurring theme was the importance of closer collaboration between farmers and researchers, ensuring that scientific studies address real-world challenges and observations from the farm. Sessions on adaptive grazing, woodland grazing and farmer-led innovation highlighted the need for practical evidence to support emerging farming practices.

Particularly interesting was a DEFRA-supported study examining mob grazing on farms across England. Universally, mob grazing had a beneficial impact on biodiversity, but results regarding the impacts on soil, pasture, milk yields and growth rates were highly variable, with mob grazing performing better on some farms than others. This really illustrated the importance of tailoring practices to each individual farm, and that long-term studies are needed to see the impact of these practices from year to year.

The event generated valuable discussions, new connections and ideas for future projects and knowledge exchange activities. We returned to Moredun inspired by what we learned and hopeful that we can return to Groundswell next year, potentially contributing a Moredun seminar or workshop of our own.

FARMERS WANTED!

Help improve our understanding of grazing management and worm control!

Take part in this questionnaire on pasture management, livestock productivity and parasitic worms. Sign up for the further study and we will do free faecal egg counts and egg speciation with the results sent to you!

Scan the QR code to find out more.

Kayleigh Devine | University of Glasgow & Moredun Research Institute
k.devine.1@research.gla.ac.uk



The Moredun BioBus at Groundswell.



The team enjoyed the program of events.



The safari walks at the events were very popular.

The summer of engagement

It has been a busy and rewarding summer for Moredun staff, who have engaged with farmers, students and members of the public at events across Scotland and beyond. From major agricultural events including NSA ScotSheep, the Royal Highland Show and the NSA Sheep Event in Malvern, to local shows and community events such as the Roberton Show, Roslin Fete and Open Farm Sunday, the team has been sharing knowledge about livestock health through interactive activities, hands-on demonstrations and discussions with visitors of all ages.

Our researchers have also delivered practical workshops and training sessions throughout the season. Highlights included faecal egg count (FEC) workshops with NFUS Selkirk and at a regenerative dairy farm walk, veterinary pathology and sheep scab ELISA demonstrations at YAS Agritunity and LANTRA Scotland, and discussions on the role of technology in extensive livestock systems at the SRUC Kirkton & Auchertyre Open Day.



Moredun's parasite collection is always a big draw.

At many of these events visitors had the opportunity to see parasites up close, test their pipetting skills, create sheep-themed crafts and learn more about careers in science and livestock health. These events provided valuable opportunities to exchange knowledge, showcase Moredun's research and inspire the next generation interested in animal health and agriculture.

Sharing Science at the Royal Welsh Show



Team talks with Richard Irvine and Llyr Gruffydd.

Moredun's debut at the Royal Welsh Show was a resounding success. Over four sunny days, our team met hundreds of farmers, vets, students and industry colleagues, all eager to talk livestock health and hear about our latest research.

Sharing a stand with Farming Connect in the brand new NSA Sheep Village created a fantastic atmosphere, with a steady stream of visitors and plenty of discussions about Targeted Selective Control for parasites amongst others.

Key engagements included discussions with Richard Irvine, CVO for Wales, and Llyr Gruffydd, Cabinet Minister for Rural Resilience and Sustainability. Their interest in Moredun's research highlighted the value of collaborative approaches to animal health policy and practice.

The team also met with APHA colleagues to explore current work on ticks and tickborne diseases, an area of growing importance in Wales. In addition, Moredun was invited to deliver daily talks in the NSA marquee, offering an opportunity to share our work with sheep producers and industry representatives.

There was time to enjoy the show too with one highlight being the Welsh cob stallions in the main ring! We also tasted some delicious Welsh produce and were very glad to be a few stands away from a sheep's milk ice cream stand! The farming social media seminar, featuring Cammy Wilson of The Sheep Game, introduced some fresh ideas about communication in agriculture.

Most importantly, the enthusiasm and engagement from everyone who stopped by made our first Royal Welsh Show truly memorable. Thank you to all who visited and the new members who've join us!



Making a Sheep with Moredun.



The team in the Sheep Village Cynefin.



Team Scotland at the social media seminar.

Spotlight

Meet Moredun's newest recruits

Bryony Sands

Research Fellow



What is your job role?
I am a Research Fellow specialising in Integrated Parasite Management (IPM) for grazing ruminants, focusing on the role of livestock IPM for sustainable management. My training in agricultural entomology, parasitology and regenerative agriculture has led me to investigate relationships between pests, parasites and beneficial insects in grazed pastures. Ultimately, I am interested in finding livestock management approaches that optimise outcomes for biodiversity and soil health alongside animal health and welfare. During my PhD, I studied dung beetles in UK and sub-Saharan African grazing systems – and have retained a passion for them ever since!

What are you passionate about?
Aside from dung beetles, I am passionate about livestock. However, after the size of my herd of pet milking goats got a bit out of hand when we were living in America, my husband has put a ban on me getting any more animals until our three young children are older!

Jo Walters

Technical officer



What is your job role?
I am a technical officer within the Moredun Scientific aquaculture team, and my responsibilities include maintaining fish research systems that aid in the development of therapeutics for the aquaculture industry, as well as helping the team to prepare and carry out studies and manage colonies of *Amoeba*. I am really enjoying my time in this role as the work is varied and no two days are the same, I am also enjoying learning new skills and putting to use theoretical knowledge gained from my recent master's degree.

What is something you would like to learn more about?
I have a keen interest in salmonid biology, particularly Rainbow trout and Atlantic salmon genetics and how cellular populations change through lifecycle events such as smoltification. I would like to learn more about specific genetic resistance to pathogens and how pathogen resistance effects desirable traits such as growth, survival rates, and smoltification with the use of single cell genetics and immunohistochemistry.

Kezia Fourie

Postdoctoral research scientist



What is your job role?
I am a postdoctoral research scientist on the Easter Bush Research Consortium *Ostertagia ostertagi* project. The first part of my project is to use organoids to study the interaction between the worm *O. ostertagi* and the cow abomasum. The second part is to characterize other types of organoids such as lung and mammary, also from the cow. It's an exciting project with lots of different objectives, keeping me on my toes.

Have you ever met a celebrity?
Years ago I went to a meet and greet for John Rhys-Davies (Gimli in Lord of the Rings). It was a memorable experience because you could tell he wanted to be there and was excited to meet everyone. When he saw people dressed up as dwarves from Middle Earth he ran up to them and taught them how to swing an axe like a dwarf. He also signed a book for me which is a very nice memento!

Kathryn Allan

Principal Research Scientist



What is your job role?
My role is as a lead investigator in research on bacterial infectious diseases. I am a veterinary epidemiologist by training and I'm particularly interested in studying how diseases are spread in animal populations and the impacts these diseases have. My job is really varied on a daily basis – it could be at the computer, applying for research grants or writing papers, in the lab, or out in the field collecting samples or talking to vets and farmers about disease problems.

What advice would you give your past self?
That career paths don't run in a straight line! I started out studying veterinary medicine and imagined myself working in a vet practice in the UK. But through my degree, I became interested in epidemiology and was lucky enough to have some great opportunities working in Kenya, Tanzania and New Zealand before coming back full circle to work with Scottish livestock again. Being open to new experiences is definitely a piece of advice I would give to my former self.



2026 Christmas cards now on sale

We have a beautiful new design for this year's Christmas card available to purchase from our online shop. Titled "Snow on the Farm" it shows a red tractor in the snow with some sheep and a faithful collie dog.



Limited numbers of "Watching the Flock" and "Udderley Adorable" are available from 2025 if you fancy something different. As well as some high-quality gift-wrapping paper.

Visit our online shop for more details:
www.moredun.org.uk/shop

