



**Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of Hybu Cig Cymru held at
Tŷ Rheidol, Parc Merlin, Aberystwyth on Friday 6 March 2009 at 10.00am (HCC 256)**

Present: Rees Roberts (Chairman)
John Brereton, John Collins, Huw Evans, Rhodri Evans,
Alan Gardner, Will Haresign, William Jenkins, Nic Lampkin,
Graham Probert, Glyn Roberts, Wyn Williams, John Yeomans.

By Invitation: Sion Aron Jones (WAG), Lionel Walford (WLB).

In Attendance: Julie Davies-Jones, Gwyn Howells, Bill Joyce, Alan Morris,
Bryan Regan, Kirsten Smith.

1. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Wynfford James.

2. **Minutes of the Board meeting – 20 January 2009 (HCC 244)**

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 20 January 2009 were taken as read, adopted and signed by the Chairman.

3. **Matters Arising**

Welsh Red Meat Legislative Competence Order (LCO)

The Welsh Affairs Committee (Westminster) had published its Third Report of Session 2008 - 09 on the Proposed National Assembly for Wales Legislative Competence (Agriculture and Rural Development) Order 2008.

Following scrutiny, the Committee had agreed with the principle and recommendations of the LCO. However, it was unlikely that the process in Westminster would be completed for some time. Subsequently, a Measure would need to be passed by the NAW.

Future of Defra Link Committee / Programmes

Following contact with the WAG and Defra it was apparent that the future of the Link structure was under review. Officially, the Livestock Link programme reached the end of its 3 year extension in June 2008. Discussions had been taking place at the level of the Chief Scientist and feedback given indicated that a form of framework for collaborative research would continue but would operate differently to the current programmes.

4. HCC Reports

WAG Statistics – February 2009

It was noted that farming income for all farm types in Wales was forecasted to have increased by 16% in 08/09.

a. Activities (HCC 245)

The above was taken as read.

Carcase Selection Training Courses

The above continued to be popular and well received by stakeholders.

EID

The interim report of the demonstration pilot project undertaken would be available in April 2009.

HCC Corporate Web Site

The Corporate web site had gone live since early February 2009. The Board congratulated the Executive on the work undertaken. Development work on the site would continue which would include frequent updates on news and activities.

“Face of Welsh Lamb”

Myrddin Davies, a farmer from Llanrwst had been chosen to be the “Face of Welsh Lamb”. Extensive press and media coverage had been received to date with numerous events and activities planned for the forthcoming year; commencing with a national and consumer press day to be held on the 11 March 2009 in London.

Health Eating

Llanelli Scarlets RFC had agreed to be involved with HCC at an event aimed at school children to promote healthy eating and sport / keeping fit. Similar events were in the pipeline with the Ospreys and Cardiff Blues.

Export Market

Recent analysis undertaken by HCC indicated that Welsh red meat exports are currently worth £108m a year to the Welsh economy with Welsh Lamb accounting for over £91m of the annual total.

Bluetongue

The number of confirmed cases affected by Bluetongue in the UK up to February 2009 was 149. The number of cases in Europe was significant with 23,000 confirmed cases in France alone in 2008.

As the spring and warmer weather was approaching, it was essential that farmers were aware of the risks involved should they decide not to vaccinate livestock.

To assist with raising awareness, it was agreed to include a direct link from the HCC web site to the WAG page on animal health issues.

b. Market Bulletin (HCC 246)

Splitting of Carcasses for Sheep Two Tooth and over

A response from the FSA to the CEO on the splitting of carcasses over twelve months old would be circulated to the Board for information.

c. Financial Papers

Income and Expenditure (HCC 247)

The above was taken as read.

Balance Sheet (HCC 248)

The above was taken as read.

d. Forthcoming events (HCC 249)

The above was taken as read.

5. **To receive an update on the Red Meat Strategic Action Plan consultation**

The consultation on the Red Meat Strategic Action plan had closed on the 20 February 2009.

Numerous responses had been considered and amendments made where appropriate. The Action Plan would subsequently be utilized as a framework for the industry going forward for the next 3 – 5 years and would be revised as appropriate.

The Action Plan would now be forwarded to the Minister for consideration with a view to its launch at the Wales Millennium Centre in Cardiff on the 28 April 2009.

The Board approved the Action Plan and congratulated the Executive on the work undertaken.

6. **To approve the membership of the Welsh Red Meat Strategy Monitoring Committee**

A paper noting the proposed constitution of the Red Meat Strategy Monitoring Committee was tabled for consideration and approved by the Board.

The next steps would be to:

Invite externals to serve as Members on the Committee.

Convene a meeting following the launch of the Action Plan for the Group to agree a framework for reporting and measuring progress of the Action Plan.

The Terms of Reference for the Committee would be available for the Board's approval in due course.

7. **To consider a draft of HCC's Corporate Plan 2009-2012 (HCC 250)**

The above was taken as read.

The Board approved the Corporate Plan for 2009-2012.

8. **To approve HCC's Business Plan 2009-2010 (HCC 251)**

The above was taken as read.

Outline of Amendments (HCC251a)

An outline of the amendments since the initial draft document was tabled for information. Subject to the amendments made, the Business Plan was approved by the Board.

9. **To receive a report and adopt the Minutes of the Audit Sub Committee meeting - 20 February 2009 (HCC 252)**

The Chairman of the Committee (John Collins) reported on the meeting held on the 20 February 2009:

Systems Review

Following a review, Baker Tilly (the auditors) were satisfied with the work undertaken by HCC. The Chairman of the Committee thanked the Finance and Administration team for their commendable work.

Treasury Management

A policy paper on the above had been considered by the Sub Committee and would be reviewed annually.

Year End Audit

A timetable was presented and approved by the Sub Committee:

6 May 2009	-	Audit commences
22 May 2009	-	Audit Committee meeting
5 June 2009	-	Presentation of accounts to the Board

The Minutes of the Audit Committee held on 20 February 2009 were taken as read and adopted by the Board.

10. **To receive a report and adopt the Minutes of the R&D Advisory Sub Committee - 11 February 2009 (HCC 253)**

The Chairman of the R&D Advisory Sub Committee (Rees Roberts) reported on the meeting held on the 11 February 2009:

The Minutes of the R&D Advisory Sub Committee held on 11 February 2009 were taken as read and adopted by the Board.

11. **To adopt the Terms of Reference of the R&D Advisory Sub-Committee**

The above were taken as read and adopted by the Board.

12. **Update paper for information – Beef and Lamb Dressing Specifications (HCC 255)**

The above was taken as read and well received by the Board.

Following discussion, it was agreed to write to Defra for clarification on the extent of the industry practice of rounding down of carcase weights to the nearest 1/2kg instead of the nearest 0.1kg.

13. **Any other business**

Welsh Organic Production and Market Report 2008

The above was tabled to the Board for information.

14. **Date of next meeting**

The next Board meeting would be held on Tuesday 28 April 2009 in Cardiff.

Signed.....
Chairman of HCC