Experiences and attitudes towards clinical audit of veterinary surgeons undertaking farm animal work in the UK

What is the study about?
Evaluating the quality of veterinary care provided in practice is important to ensure that high standards are monitored and maintained. Clinical audit has been shown by the medical profession to be a useful tool for assessing and improving clinical standards. The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, the governing body of the veterinary profession in the United Kingdom (UK), encourage veterinary surgeons to carry out clinical audit as part of their clinical governance. However, clinical audit is still a relatively new concept and its use remains very varied between businesses in the UK. This study aims to discover how farm animal vets currently use clinical audit and their attitudes towards it.

Who’s involved?
The project is being led by the Centre for Evidence-based Veterinary Medicine (CEVM, www.nottingham.ac.uk/cevm).

Why have I been invited to take part in this study?
All farm animal veterinary surgeons who are members of the British Cattle Veterinary Association (BCVA) or the Sheep Veterinary Society (SVS) have been invited to take part in this study. All practices listed on the RCVS register as offering farm animal veterinary services have also been invited to participate. You may have also received the link to this survey via social media.

I haven’t been invited to take part, but I would like to be involved
If you are a veterinary surgeon undertaking farm animal veterinary work in the UK and you would like to participate in the study, please complete the short survey: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/farm_animal_clinical_audit

Confidentiality
All information collected will be stored safely, treated in the strictest confidence and fully anonymised (any personal information will be removed by the CEVM from all responses on receipt); no individual person will be identifiable in any publication. Only researchers at the CEVM will have access to your completed questionnaire. The findings of this
research will be published in peer-reviewed scientific journals and presented at conferences. Summary findings will be available; please provide your email address at the end of the survey if you would like to be informed of the results.

This research has received ethical approval from the School of Veterinary Medicine and Science Ethics Committee, The University of Nottingham.

The CEVM is sponsored by the University of Nottingham and Elanco Animal Health. These organisations have had no input into the study design of the questionnaire and will not have access to the unpublished data.

**Consent**

Your participation in this research is entirely voluntary. There is no obligation to take part although your responses will be of immense benefit to us. There is no payment for taking part in this study, however if you choose to submit your email address you will be entered into a prize draw to win £50 worth of vouchers for a store of your choice. By completing and submitting the questionnaire online you are indicating your consent to participate in the study.

**Contacts**

For further information, or if you have any concerns or complaints about this process, please contact Katie Waine BVSc MRCVS at the CEVM svxkw@nottingham.ac.uk or Marnie Brennan BSc(VB) BVMS PhD PGCHE DipECVPH(PM) FHEA MRCVS by phone on 0115 951 6577, or email marnie.brennan@nottingham.ac.uk