

Skills strengthened and memories made for young shepherds in France

By Katie James, NSA



NSA Next Generation enabled four young shepherds from each of the UK nations to travel to France in June to take part in the World Young Shepherds Competition.

Competing against others from Africa, Australia and beyond, Liam Doyle (Northern Ireland), Matthew Fearon (England), Caryl Davies (Wales) and Lana Bell (Scotland) displayed their shepherding skills.

Caryl comments on her experience: "Having competed at the NSA Next Generation Shepherd Competition at NSA Welsh Sheep in 2023 I was fortunate to be chosen to represent Wales in the UK team at the Ovinpiades Mondiales, or Sheep Olympics.

"Hosted by French shepherds, the event had not taken place for 10 years and so there was much excitement about the competition. I was hesitant about the trip, not having met any of my fellow UK teammates let alone the rest of the competitors, but at the end of May I flew to Paris to meet Matthew, Liam and Lana.

"The weeklong competition consisted of six different challenges including shearing, lamb and ewe selection, handling and health assessment (body condition scoring), electric fencing and foot care.

"Despite being brought up on a sheep farm, shearing sheep myself is not a task I get involved with, leaving our experienced shearers to it instead! Nevertheless, I had to give this competition element a go and was pleasantly surprised by how well it went."

Challenges

"The next day of challenges included the assessment of finished lambs and ewes using an electronic reader and race. I felt more comfortable with this task as it is something we do regularly at home before sending lambs to market.

"The day was hosted at Fedates, a station used for testing five lactating sheep breeds – Blanche du Massif Central, Île de France, Berrichon du Cher, Suffolk and Rouge de l'Ouest. After our tests we were fortunate enough to have a tour of the facilities where various experimental protocols are implemented and evaluated.

"On the final competing day handling and assessing the health and body condition came under scrutiny, as well as our ability to erect a netted fence.

"Between competing days we visited several well-known French regions in the South, including Roquefort to sample the famous sheep's milk cheese and other sheep dairies – a contrast to sheep farms at home in Pembrokeshire.



The UK team (L-R) of Liam, Matthew, Lana and Caryl.

"At the end of the week it was time for awards where the well-deserved French and Australian candidates dominated the top placings. Pleasingly the UK followed closely behind with Matthew and Liam being placed in the top 10. I achieved 8th in the shepherdess section.

Memories

"But the trip was more than a competition for us, as the contacts and memories we have been so fortunate to make are priceless. There were several challenges, most notably the language barrier, but this was overcome by our excellent translator Remi.

"Without a doubt this experience has been unforgettable. The week provided ample opportunity to socialise with other competitors as well as develop some team building skills – I hope to stay in contact with my fellow teammates in the future."

The trip was made possible by NSA Next Generation funding and sponsorship from MSD Animal Health.






EXPANSION OF OUR TRUSTED HSW ECO-MATIC® FAMILY

HSW ECO-MATIC® 6 ml / 10 ml

Automatic self-filling syringe for
INJECTION, DRENCH- or POUR-ON application



PRODUCT VIDEO



SCAN FOR OUR

For more information please contact:

Henke-Sass, Wolf GmbH
Kellertstrasse 1
78532 Tuttingen, Germany
info@henkesasswolf.de
www.henkesasswolf.de

FLEXIBILITY

Standardized swivel nut for easy exchange of needles, nozzles and hooks with other products from the HSW product range

Different adaptors for different shaped and sized bottles as well as for tubes

USERFRIENDLY

Ergonomic and compact design; easy valve and o-ring service

DOSE SETTING

Exact dosage adjustment via doing wheel (0.5 ml steps, from 0.5 ml)

RESISTANT

Premium quality plastic syringe with durable plastic barrel

TWO SET-UPS

Back Bottle Mount or Tubing

