



Proposed Red Tractor changes

from 01 October 2017

RT are currently consulting (until end December this year) on changes which are due to take effect from 01 October next year. The following changes are being proposed –



eMB: To become compulsory.

Antibiotic usage data is to be submitted quarterly. As two previous quarter usage data is required, this will mean using the eMB from the end of March 2017 at the latest to avoid non-compliance. A guide of how to use the eMB is being compiled by AHDB Pork and will be available next month. Currently, 2015 data can be supplied to AHDB (in any format) for them to input on your behalf. We encourage all clients to start using this now!!

Antibiotic use: The use of critically important antibiotics (CIAs) should be used only where absolutely necessary and only with proof e.g. culture and sensitivity, of the need to use these products to protect animal welfare.

Imported stock and semen: Veterinary certification required to confirm pathogen free.

Ear tagging and tattooing: In preference to ear notching to identify breeding animals. Ear notching is only acceptable in coloured animals where tattooing is not possible.

Vermin control: Permanent baiting should not be undertaken unless there is proof is it effective. Proof of competence in rodenticide use will be required.

Water: Adequate flow rate and appropriate water pressure required. Water trough length has been defined. Non-mains water must have an annual test certificate for TVC and coliforms.

Supplementary rearing systems: Must be used only in accordance with legislation and be cleaned and disinfected between batches.

Biosecurity: Biosecure areas to be defined, restriction of non-essential visitors, overalls/ boots/ toilets/ hand washing facilities must all be available in the biosecure area, food areas must be designated and away from pigs with no pork products allowed.

Fallen stock: To include afterbirth and stillborn piglets – must be removed promptly.

Environmental protection: More detailed requirements on weed control, product storage and chemical waste. Farm maps identifying areas of high pollution risk are required. Plant Protection Products (PPP) application equipment must be calibrated annually and records kept for 2 years.

For more information see <https://consultation.redtractor.org.uk/rta/pigs/>

Avoid salt poisoning this winter

A reminder to lag/insulate all water pipes to prevent freezing this winter.

Water shortage, either an inadequate supply or complete lack, can cause salt poisoning. Symptoms are often mistaken for Streptococcal meningitis or Glassers Disease as neurological signs are common. Pigs often appear blind and may head press into walls. Response to treatment is poor but involves rehydrating the pig orally or via the rectum. Please check all water is free flowing at least twice daily.

Topical Talk

What does Avian Influenza mean for pig keepers?



Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) of the strain H5N8 has been confirmed in turkeys on a poultry farm near Louth in Lincolnshire. All birds at the premises have died or have been humanely culled to limit the risk of disease spread.

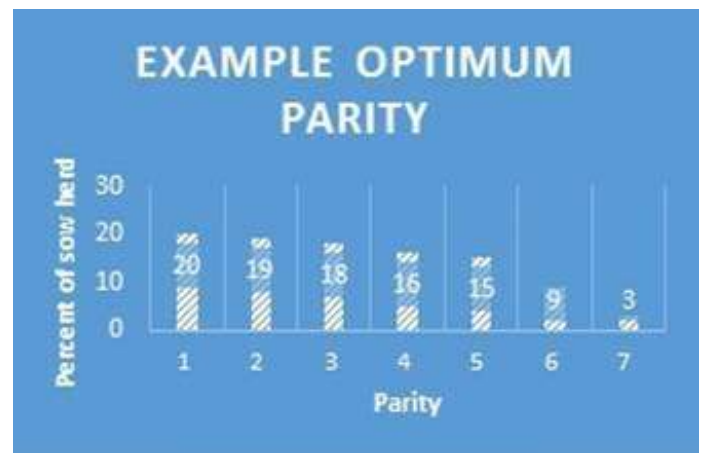
Based on what we know about the H5N8 strain, the risk to public health is considered very low. There have never been any recorded cases of H5N8 in humans (DEFRA).

The movement of pigs or other mammals susceptible to avian influenza on or off premises where poultry or other captive birds (including backyard chickens) are kept within the 3km Protection and 10km Surveillance Zones is not permitted without a licence. To obtain a 'one-off' movement licence from APHA, a veterinary inspection of both pigs and poultry is usually required within 24 hours of movement. Movements to slaughter are usually prioritised over the movement of weaners.

Those clients with multi-species sites are recommended to keep poultry housed where practically possible and to introduce biosecurity measures to reduce contact with wild birds. Visitors should be kept to a minimum and effective vermin control should be implemented.

Maintaining sow parity profile

Regularly check your herd parity profile and replacement rate to maintain a productive herd. Aim for an average herd parity profile no greater than 2.8 and a replacement rate of 45-50%. Common reasons for straying from these targets are poor conception rates in gilts, second litter drops and sows not rearing good numbers. Identifying these production weaknesses will highlight any need for management changes to help improve sow retention.



**Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year**

from everybody at Garth Pig Practice