

Antibiotic Reduction Targets Have Been Announced

At the end of October the RUMA report on antibiotic reduction was published and the goal posts have been defined – both for the livestock sector as a whole and for the pig industry specifically.

Many of you have already been working hard to reduce your personal usage of antibiotics over the last two years and this is strongly demonstrated by the published data. The pig sector has reduced its use of antibiotics by 34.4% from 2015 to 2016 based on the eMB data collected. This is excellent.

The 2015 baseline for the pig industry has been taken as 263.5mg/PCU. This is a midpoint between the 61% of the industry who provided data for 2015 onto the eMB and the VARRS report for that year.

We have also reduced our usage of the three critically important categories – fluoroquinolones, 3rd and 4th generation cephalosporins and Colistin. Our usage of Colistin is now negligible.

The targets going forward have been set as follows:

Year	Target Reduction	Target Usage (mg/PCU)
2015	Baseline	263.5
2016	35%	171
2017	25%	128
2018	10%	115.5
2018	10%	104
2020	5%	99

It is however worth noting if you personally have been unable, for whatever reason, to reduce your usage that these targets are for the industry as a whole and are not targets for each specific farm. Currently there are no reported plans for any action against

individuals. Farmers are advised to attempt to reduce their personal usage by the % target reduction each year, rather than focus on the target mg/PCU. This way the industry as a whole should hit its target usage.

It is also acknowledged in the report that we have a number of potential challenges on the horizon, such as the banning of Zinc oxide or the emergence of a new disease, which could limit our ability to reduce our usage as an industry. We also have the challenge, which the report acknowledges, that some diseases are very challenging to control using vaccination, management or eradication strategies – for example *S. suis*.

Across all livestock our usage has been lower than expected for the period of 2016 at 45mg/PCU. This is below the target of 50 which was meant to be achieved by 2018. This is something that the UK livestock industry should be very proud of.

It is worth noting that these reduction targets do not mean that we cannot use antibiotics where they are needed. As an industry we have, in my opinion, the highest animal welfare standards in the world and disease control is a vital part of maintaining welfare. There is no doubt that there will always be a requirement for antibiotics as part of this. This factor is outlined within the RUMA report as is the comparison with the Netherlands where a rapid reduction of around 70% led to health and welfare concerns.

Overall I think it is very important to stress that we have a lot to already be proud of both as a pig industry and as part of a wider livestock sector, here in the UK. The significant effort already made to reduce our antibiotic usage and the broad engagement with this challenge across the industry are definitely part of this.

(Tom Iveson)

Topical Talk – Avian Influenza guidance for multi-species farms

Last year during the H5N8 avian influenza outbreak, there was concern about pigs kept on premises on which avian influenza was confirmed.

DEFRA advice is that a site is only declared positive when Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) is found in kept birds (not wild birds) and that culling is by no means an automatic control measure (although legally it is a permitted option).

1. If a premises has Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) confirmed in poultry, even if just one chicken, the premises will be placed under restriction and confirmed as an HPAI infected premises (IP) and the bird(s) will be culled (if not already dead) and removed for disposal by APHA followed by preliminary cleaning and disinfection (C&D).

2. C&D is required of the area where the bird(s) were kept and any equipment or buildings or open areas that the poultry had contact with – this is at the owner's expense.

3. Depending on where the birds were kept and ranged, C&D could involve areas where pigs are kept.

4. Pig movements would be restricted on the IP. There is a requirement to test pigs at premises where HPAI is confirmed. Pigs testing negative could only move off the premises (e.g. to slaughter or another premises) after a veterinary risk assessment and granting of a movement licence. If the pigs are found to be infected with HPAI, APHA has legal powers to cull however whether that occurs, or whether they are moved is decided on a case by case basis.

5. If pigs are killed under the instruction of Defra for disease control reasons under Section 32 of the Animal Health Act, they would be eligible for compensation.

We would advise all farms with both pigs and poultry to be aware of the risks and ensure that the two operations remain totally separate in terms of contact, people and equipment.

(Louise Blenkhorn)

Disinfectants

Under PRIMO regulations external footdips at perimeter points should use a disinfectant approved for SVD, and at the concentration specified. This information should be listed on the drum. It is also a question on DEFRA inspection form so will be checked for those farms approved under PRIMO.

It is the case that disinfectants with similar ingredients may be approved where others are not. This is because each disinfectant has to undergo testing to be approved and this is expensive so not all manufacturers will perform it. You can easily check whether a disinfectant is approved at disinfectants.defra.gov.uk and look under Swine Vesicular disease orders column.

There are no legal requirements on choice of disinfectants inside the unit, and the advice of your unit vet should be sought.

For transport vehicles ironically the requirements appears to be to use only one approved for general orders, however would recommend using one approved under both general orders, Swine Vesicular disease orders and Foot and Mouth orders.

(Paul Thompson)

SeaGut

The SeaGut paste that was in the newsletter last month is now in stock in pharmacy.



Reports back from clients that have tried it are very positive; the majority are only needing to use a single dose, with no antibiotics. A very promising start for this new product in an effort towards reducing antimicrobial usage.

(Nicola Bowers)

Pig and Poultry North 2018

This year's **Pig and Poultry North** will take place on **January 18th** at the **National Agri-Food Innovation Campus**, Lakeside Conference Centre near Sand Hutton, York.

The day will begin at 9.30am with a welcome bacon sandwich, the conference talks starting at 10am.

The theme for this year's event will be **"PUTTING SCIENCE INTO PRACTICE – WHAT WORKS"** and once again we will have a wide range of speakers and subjects that are sure to provoke discussion. The format will be of interest to both pig and poultry producers and allied trade. The format will be as before with a mixed species theme for the morning presentations, followed by pig and poultry specific sessions in the afternoon.

Please contact Rachel at Garth 01262 488323 or rachel@garthvet.co.uk, to register a place.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Merry Christmas and a



Happy New Year



from everybody at Garth Pig Practice