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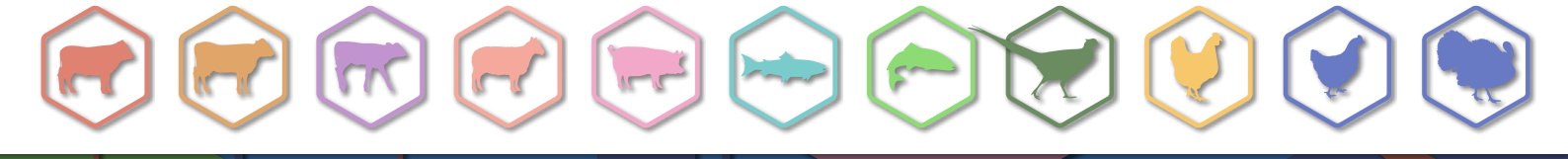

RUMA Targets Task Force 2: **Five Years On**

RUMA Targets Task Force 2: A report summarising the fifth year of progress against antibiotic use targets identified by the UK livestock industry's Targets Task Force 2 (TTF2) in November 2020.

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RUMA Chair & Chair of the RUMA Targets Task Force 2

Introduction

This report marks the final update in the RUMA Targets Task Force 2 (TTF2) cycle and completes another important and valuable phase in the livestock industry's antibiotic stewardship journey. We will shortly be releasing the TTF3 targets which will further build on the lessons and successes from the work of the RUMA TTF since it was first established back in 2016.

The continued effort and commitment from across UK livestock sectors remains clear to see in this latest report. While the story of stewardship and use is broadly positive there is still work to do. Since 2014 and cumulatively across TTF1 and TTF2, there has been just under a 60% voluntary reduction in the use of antibiotics in UK livestock. While reductions in use have been significant over the past decade, we are starting to see a plateau in reduction levels which is to be expected and sectors must still use antibiotics when it is appropriate to do so – right time, right place, right situation.

The overall feedback featured in this report is encouraging and I applaud the efforts of everyone involved; there are some increases in usage in some sectors which have been the result of disease outbreaks, lack of availability of key vaccines, environmental impacts, and in some cases, a combination of all three.

The UK livestock industry has some of the highest health and welfare standards in farming globally, and our antibiotic stewardship work has been recognised internationally.

But is there still more to do? Yes. Without a doubt. Shortly after this report is launched, the RUMA TTF3 report will be published outlining the next four years of sector targets and commitments. We must continue to innovate and apply the learnings so far, to ensure we protect the efficacy of antibiotics long into the future.

As well as its role in tackling AMR, there are many other key factors as to why livestock and aquaculture sectors need to be able to effectively demonstrate responsible antibiotic use, including for trade purposes, consumer confidence, and to continue to demonstrate the UK's high health and welfare standards in farming. All of these are essential factors in making sure that UK farming is viewed as the best, as leading the way, and is recognised as a principal contributor and driving force in the battle against AMR.

The industry has an important job ahead. There are insights and lessons to be taken and applied from the first and second cycles of the RUMA Targets Task Force, and there remains a need to refine the way forward into the third cycle of RUMA Targets and focus efforts on measuring what matters, and activating new or refining existing stewardship programmes, in order to substantiate responsible antibiotic use, for all the reasons I outlined earlier.

Over the lifecycle of TTF2 the industry has weathered (and continues to weather) many storms, from disease outbreaks such as Avian Influenza and Bluetongue, vaccines shortages, ongoing impacts from Brexit, as well as environmental influences which can adversely impact medicines use in many sectors. But despite the challenges, commitment and dedication remains as strong as ever.

Cattle Sectors: Beef, Dairy and Calves

Overview

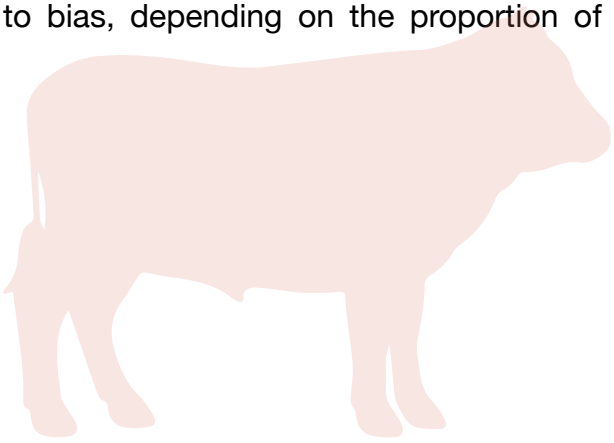
Ongoing collaboration has continued in 2024 between the different ruminant sector bodies on responsible antibiotic use across the UK. BCVA has continued to provide high quality training and education to its members in the past year, including collaboration with other industry bodies promoting Animal Health and Welfare Initiatives. Data to date supports that the cattle industry are a low user of antibiotics with low HP-CIA use. Due to the complexities that exist across this sector (scale and volume of enterprises) data collection is challenging. To help address this, the ruminant sector has now launched a ruminant antibiotic stewardship roadmap the aim of which is:

- To identify how to further promote and demonstrate responsible antibiotic stewardship (ABS) at UK ruminant farm-level to drive progress and enhance animal health and welfare.
- To work in partnership with ongoing initiatives, strengthen existing activity, to co-design a unified framework for the collation and reporting of sufficient evidence of antibiotic usage (ABU) at UK national level to satisfy both customers and authorities.

Medicine Hub

The Medicine Hub (MH) figures included in this RUMA TTF Report do not represent a full year of data collection. This is because annual data for 2024 will continue to be inputted right up until the end of 2025. This reflects the cycle of on-farm data collection in the cattle sector which is often aligned to the annual vet/farmer reviews of herd health plans as part of farm assurance. The figures in the TTF report cannot therefore be taken as fully comprehensive and only provide a 'snapshot' at the time of going to print. The Cattle industry continues its support of Medicine Hub (MH) from AHDB, and its encouragement of cattle farmers and vets to input data. The third collated dataset of antibiotic use in the UK cattle and sheep sectors is now available from Medicine Hub, which has been developed and resourced by AHDB on behalf of industry. Totalling 8,878 enterprises across dairy, beef and sheep, these are still early data but give an indication of antibiotic use in ruminants. It is important to note that the sector is large, and this number of enterprises is not considered representative of the wider industry. Anecdotally, it has always been felt that the ruminant sector was a low user of antibiotics, but the data have not been available, particularly in the sheep and beef sectors, to validate this view. The good news is that the data being seen across dairy, beef and sheep from Medicine Hub, which is still preliminary, go some way to giving that confidence. It is also becoming evident that the use of Highest Priority Critically Important Antibiotics (HP-CIAs) is minimal across the ruminant sector. Medicine Hub uptake to date has been voluntary and the scale and complexity of the ruminant sector means it will take time to build up the volume of data. Given the diversity of farms in the sectors, as more enterprises enter data, the usage figures are expected to change. Neither is it possible to draw conclusions by directly comparing 2022, 2023 and 2024 published data, as they will not be derived from exactly the same dataset year to year. However, the depth of understanding and value of the data to the industry will continue to increase. As data submission accelerates over the next couple of years, the data will become more robust, such that industry can set a national baseline of current performance

and start to implement management strategies based on data and intelligence from Medicine Hub, within enterprise types. At the time of the RUMA TTF Report going to print, Medicine Hub drew on data from 3,205 dairy enterprises to calculate a mean usage of 13.94 mg/PCU (not a full year of data). This is comparable to the mg/PCU figure contained in the UK VARSS Report, as the denominator (number of adult dairy cows) and adjusted live weights used in Medicine Hub are identical. In population terms, this represents 43% of adult dairy cows in the UK. The Medicine Hub figure for HP-CIA use in dairy was low, at 0.01 mg/PCU. The Medicine Hub used 3,367 beef enterprises (including rearing calves) to calculate a mean antibiotic usage of 1.7 mg/kg. Mean HP-CIA use was 0.002 mg/kg. Medicine Hub has adopted the Cattle Health and Welfare Group (CHAWG) methodology to calculate beef metrics. This uses a denominator based on the overall population of beef cattle which are 'at risk', across a range of animal categories and standard weights. The ESVAC methodology, adopted by VARSS, uses only slaughtered beef animals as the denominator in its calculation. Therefore, total antibiotic use is distributed over a smaller number of animals and is more prone to bias, depending on the proportion of beef farm types contributing to the overall dataset. As a consequence, no beef data have been published this year using the mg/PCU metric. Both the "mg/PCU" and "mg/kg" metrics published are extremely useful for national trend monitoring within the dairy, sheep and beef sectors. However, due to the differences in how these figures are calculated, they should not be used to compare antibiotic use between the different sectors. These are still very early days in the drive to capture a comprehensive picture of antibiotic use across the beef, dairy and sheep sectors. Work continues to engage stakeholders all along the supply chain to encourage even more use of Medicine Hub for new and existing data sets, in order to strive towards achieving the ambitious targets set for Medicine Hub for the years ahead. Medicine Hub is grateful for the collaboration of individual farmers, vets, bulk data holders/data integrators (Kingshay, Map of Ag, Foods Connected, NML, Bos International, Kite Consulting), farmer groups (Welsh Lamb and Beef Producers, Blade Farming, ABP Gamechanger, Buitelaar), milk buyers (Arla, First Milk, Muller, Barbers), Herdwatch farm software, the FIIA Group and others for sharing, or facilitating access, to these important data.



Beef, Dairy and Calves Sectors Progress Against Targets

✔ = in progress ✔✔ = well advanced ✔✔✔ = achieved

Beef, Dairy and Calves Targets			
Measurement Metric	**Target**	**2024 status**	**Progress**
Calculation, benchmarking and central upload of data	**Data from 95% of UK dairy herds captured by 2024**	**Medicine Hub** – please see the MH summary in the overview section above. At the time of the RUMA TTF Report going to print, Medicine Hub drew on data from 3,205 dairy enterprises to calculate a mean usage of 13.94 mg/PCU (not a full year of data). This is comparable to the mg/PCU figure contained in the UK VARSS Report, as the denominator (number of adult dairy cows) and adjusted live weights used in Medicine Hub are identical. In population terms, this represents 43% of adult dairy cows in the UK. The Medicine Hub figure for HP-CIA use in dairy was low, at 0.01mg/PCU. Work continues to engage stakeholders all along the supply chain to encourage support of data into Medicine Hub, with further collaborative activity planned within TTF3. **Red Tractor (RT):** The number of beef and lamb members at the end of 2024 was 18,578 and the number of dairy members was 10,336. The beef and lamb scheme only covers England whereas the dairy scheme covers England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Within the dairy scheme the standards relating to medicine training will be revised in Feb 2025 to say that training must be carried out every five years. Scheme stats: ● The compliance rate for medicine training is 95% in Beef and lamb and 97% in dairy. ● The compliance rate for Health plan is 84% in beef and lamb and 90% in dairy. Looking at more granular data, the majority of non-conformances raised were because the health plan hadn't been signed/reviewed annually rather than no health plan being in place. ● The compliance rate for BVD control is 96% in beef and 97% in dairy. **Welsh Lamb & Beef Producers Ltd (WLBP)** members continue to work with their veterinary surgeons to calculate the average amount of antibiotics used on beef, sheep, and dairy farms in Wales using the WLBP Antimicrobial Calculator. Members of the Farm Assured Welsh Livestock (FAWL) scheme are required to have their antibiotic usage calculated on the platform. This process takes place during the annual health and welfare review, which the vet completes in conjunction with the farmers, taking the burden away from the farmers needing to upload and calculate their own usage data. Antibiotic sales data are captured and collated via the specially designed WLBP AMU Calculator. This novel reporting tool produces standardised antimicrobial usage (AMU) reports based on industry-agreed metrics. The results are expressed as milligrams of antibiotic used per kilogram of animal, a measurement accepted by government and supply chain stakeholders.	✓

Beef, Dairy and Calves Targets			
Measurement Metric	**Target**	**2024 status**	**Progress**
		Welsh farmers and vets have embraced this voluntary approach, which has resulted in what is believed to be the largest independent data set of its kind in the UK. WLBP have produced their third Annual Antimicrobial Use Report providing detailed analysis of antimicrobial use (AMU) in 6060 beef, sheep and dairy enterprises across Wales in 2023. All three reports can be accessed below: https://wlbp.co.uk/wlbp-annual-amu-reports/2023 https://wlbp.co.uk/wlbp-annual-amu-reports/2022 https://wlbp.co.uk/wlbp-annual-amu-reports/2021	
	Data from 50% of UK calf rearing units captured by 2024	Medicine Hub - please see MH summary in the overview section above.	✓
	Data from 8,000 (10% of total) UK beef captured by 2024	**Medicine Hub** - please see MH summary in the overview section above. At the time of going to print, the Medicine Hub used 3,367 beef enterprises to calculate a mean antibiotic usage of 1.7 mg/kg. Mean HP-CIA use was 0.002 mg/kg (not a full year of data). Work continues to engage stakeholders all along the supply chain to encourage support of data into Medicine Hub, with further collaborative activity planned within TTF3. **Welsh Lamb & Beef Producers Ltd (WLBP)** – please see summary in section above.	✓
Farm Vet Champions (FVCs) network	**2,800 FVCs in 900 veterinary practices across UK by 2024**	By August 2025, there are 1,195 enrolled users on the FVC course, of which 958 have accessed content (with 648 of these pledged to be FVC). 66 SMART goals have been set (across 17 teams and 49 individuals) with 23 teams created. RCVS Knowledge has promoted FVC at 9 events reaching over 800 delegates. Number of FVC users identifying as vet students – 161 users have selected student status. Resources are available for all organisations and all veterinary team members to use to promote further uptake in the network, training materials, and the SMART Goals tool. **Veterinary Prescribing Champions (VPC) Network** The VPC Network in Wales empowers vets as local ABS Champions, emphasising peer-learning and building a national community of practice aimed at ABS in ruminants. Covering nearly 90% of livestock practices, the VPC Network provides workshops, peer discussion groups, and behaviour change training. Two specialist working groups within the VPC Network have collaboratively developed a voluntary Code of Prescribing Conduct for veterinary prescribing practices across Wales, aiming to promote integrity, consistency and accountability in ABU. Alongside this, VPC working groups have developed a series of Clinical Guidelines for six key diseases of cattle and sheep which have been rolled out into participating practices.	✓

Beef, Dairy and Calves Targets			
Measurement Metric	**Target**	**2024 status**	**Progress**
Training uptake among vets	**Specify appropriate training**	**Farm Vet Champions (FVCs) network** See FVC information above. A total of 23 teams have been created with 66 SMART goals being set. There have been nine events, and over 800 delegates reached through the network. **Veterinary Prescribing Champions (VPC) Network** See VPC information above **The British Cattle Veterinary Association (BCVA)** continues to provide quality training and education, with an aim to support members across all stages of their farm vet career. There is a particular focus on clinical content to advance cattle health and welfare. BCVA's education offering is supported with representation on relevant bodies and initiatives by those on its Medicines Group, on the Herd Health and Welfare Group, Government & Agency Liaison Group, the TB Working Group and the Sustainability Group. BCVA continues to support the aims of the Medicine Hub and Farm Vet Champions, particularly with communication to its members via digital comms and at events (including BCVA Congress). Training & Information: Responsible use of veterinary medicines in UK agriculture is a priority for BCVA, along with offering related evidence-based information and training for the farm vet profession. This is evidenced in the association's CPD programme and online resources. Medicines is an inevitable thread across BCVA's training and a key feature of the popular medicine Bitesize course (81 places filled in 2025). There is an accessible, low-cost online offering that aims to reduce the incidence of BVD, Johnes, mastitis and lameness that also impacts on an overall reduction in medicine use – primarily antimicrobials. As of August 2024: ● Number of BVD qualified vets - 1062 ● Number of Johnes qualified vets - 1023 ● Number of QuarterPRO qualified vets - 117 ● Number of mobility mentors - 67 ● Number of foot health trainers - 55 Print and online resources made available by BCVA for farm vets include Cattle Quarterly, Cattle Practice (print and online), CattleCast (podcasts), Webinary Archive (website) – and a new member benefit include access to the CABI Digital Library, VetMed Resource, with a large and growing collection of full text content, journal articles, conference papers, reports and book chapters, as well as news, review articles and disease datasheets. The medicines section of the BCVA website includes supporting material for the RCVS Under Care guidance, Cascade guidelines, and positions on the responsible use of antimicrobials.	✓ ✓

Beef, Dairy and Calves Targets			
Measurement Metric	**Target**	**2024 status**	**Progress**
Medicines best practice training uptake among farmers	**Reduced training non-compliances (NC's) in Red Tractor Dairy**	There was a drop in NC's from 7% in 2022, to 5% in 2023 to 3% in 2024.	✓ ✓ ✓
	Training becomes requirement in Beef farm assurance	**Red Tractor (RT)** The number of B&L members at the end of 2024 was 18,578 and the number of dairy members was 10,336. The B&L scheme only covers England whereas the Dairy scheme covers England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The compliance rate for medicine training within RT members is 95% in Beef and Lamb and 97% in dairy. Within the dairy scheme the standards relating to medicine training will be revised in February 2025 to say that training must be carried out every five years. **NOAH's** Animal Medicines Best Practice (AMBP) farmer training for dairy, beef and sheep farmers was updated in 2024 to reflect the proactive approach to animal management that is required to minimise antibiotic use. The course is presented in interactive bite-sized sections and focuses on disease prevention, through measures such as vaccination and biosecurity. A total of 228 people purchased the AMBP courses in 2024 representing a 30% increase in the course content that was accessed in comparison to 2023. The beef course represented 60% of the courses sold in 2024, with dairy representing 29% and sheep representing the remaining 11% **Northern Ireland Beef and Lamb Farm Quality Assurance Scheme (NIBL FQAS)** There are 11,547 active participants across sheep and cattle for NIBL FQAS. In Northern Ireland it is mandatory for participants of the Northern Ireland Beef and Lamb Farm Quality Assurance Scheme (NIBL FQAS) to attend training on the Responsible Use of Antimicrobials. Scheme standards require that all persons involved in the administration of animal medication must be competent based on experience and/or training to perform the tasks they are required to undertake. In addition, at least one person responsible for administering animal medicines must be formally trained in the responsible use of antimicrobials. From 2020-2023 the College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE) provided training to over 10,600 FQAS farm businesses on the Responsible use of Antimicrobials on beef and sheep farms. This training was open to all beef and sheep farmers, free of charge under the Farm Family Key Skills Programme (FFKS). Any FQAS participants who did not avail of this training or are new applicants to the scheme must complete Responsible Use of Antimicrobials training from the approved list of courses. A written herd/flock health plan, which includes a farm bio-security policy, must be established, implemented and reviewed at least annually or more frequently in the event of any substantial changes to husbandry practices. A Health, Performance & Antibiotic Usage Review must be completed in consultation with the farm vet. Farmers must consult with their vet before using Highest Priority Critically Important Antibiotics (HP-CIA's) (3rd and 4th generation cephalosporins, fluoroquinolones, polymyxins (colistin)). The farm bio-security policy must identify the risks of disease being introduced onto the farm relating to animals, vehicles and personnel moving on and off the farm, and detail the procedures that are in place for minimising the risk. As a minimum, farms must have cleaning and washing facilities and a DAERA approved disinfectant available for personnel, vehicles or machinery coming from or going to other livestock farms or premises. The DAERA approved disinfectant must be effective against Foot and Mouth Disease, TB and General Orders.	✓ ✓

Beef, Dairy and Calves Targets			
Measurement Metric	**Target**	**2024 status**	**Progress**
		Quality Meat Scotland (QMS) has recently completed the latest review of the Cattle & Sheep Assurance Scheme Standards with the updated Standards coming into effect from 1 January 2026. QMS Standards require farm personnel with responsibilities for livestock and farming operations relating to livestock (including any contractors) to be demonstrably competent in all the tasks they are required and permitted to undertake. It is recommended that at least one member of staff responsible for administering medicines has undertaken training in the administration and handling of medicines. **Farm Assured Welsh Livestock (FAWL)** Scheme requires all farm personnel with responsibilities for livestock and for farming operations (including any contractor employed) to be competent. Members are required to have their antibiotic usage calculated on the WLBP platform with antibiotic sales data captured and collated via the specially designed AMU Calculator. This process takes place during the annual health and welfare review, which the vet completes in conjunction with the farmers, taking the burden away from the farmers needing to upload and calculate their own usage data. Developed by Welsh Lamb & Beef Producers (WLBP), the AMU Calculator enables farms to benchmark ABU transparently. Integrated into annual health and welfare reviews through the FAWL farm assurance scheme, it supports continuous improvement and evidence-based decision making. The Calculator's success is evidenced by its reach across Welsh livestock farms, with >15,000 calculations collated from WLBP's >7000 members, positioning Wales as a leader in farm-level antibiotic monitoring.	
Medicines best practice training uptake among students	**All vet school and agriculture college/ university courses include medicines best practice content by 2024**	All vet school courses include information on medicines best practice. There are 161 Farm Vet Champion users who have identified as veterinary students (though this is not a compulsory field so may not encompass all student users). **The Vet School Council (VSC)** In May 2024, The Vet School Council (VSC) and FIIA published a joint report 'A new vision for responsible antibiotic use' with a call for improved availability of national level AMU data across all farm species: FINAL-VSC-FIIA-AMR-report-A-new-vision-for-antibiotic-use-1.pdf	✓ ✓

Beef, Dairy and Calves Targets			
Measurement Metric	**Target**	**2024 status**	**Progress**
Farmer & vet herd/flock health plans	**Reduced non-compliances (NC's) annually in Dairy & Beef farm assurance for development of annual health/ medicines plan**	**Red Tractor (RT)** The compliance rate for Health Plan is 84% in Beef and lamb and 90% in dairy, looking at more granular data the majority of non-conformances raised were because the health plan hadn't been signed/reviewed annually rather than no health plan being in place. Each of the devolved nations have animal health planning within ongoing funding streams. A snapshot of some of the activities being carried out across the UK to support herd health planning are outlined below. **Ruminant health planning – Wales** Arwain DGC Programme in Wales represents a pioneering multi-partner initiative addressing ABS, ABU and antibiotic resistance (ABR) through coordinated stewardship, surveillance and technological innovation across the agricultural and veterinary sectors. Led by Mentera in partnership with Welsh Lamb & Beef Producers (WLBP), the University of Bristol, Iechyd Da and Aberystwyth University, this programme builds a national ecosystem for ABS, embedding interventions across Wales's ruminant sector. Syndromic Surveillance Arwain DGC funds a Wales-specific pilot of the Farm Animal Veterinary Surveillance Network (FAVSNET) - a real-time, syndromic surveillance system adapted from the University of Liverpool's platform. Collaborating with the Welsh Veterinary Science Centre and Iechyd Da, the system collects electronic health record data from participating practices across Wales to track disease symptoms and identify emerging threats. The project also leverages AI to detect patterns in high ABU syndromes such as mastitis, pneumonia, lameness, abortion and joint ill, in order to support early interventions that prevent unnecessary ABU. ABU & ABR Surveillance. University of Bristol researchers lead an active ABR surveillance programme on Welsh beef, sheep, dairy and mixed-species farms. By analysing environmental and faecal samples collected regularly throughout the year on a cohort of 70 farms, researchers can identify changing patterns of ABR, transmission of bacteria and genes as well as risk factors for development of ABR. Using data from the AMU Calculator, associations between ABU and ABR can be elucidated and risk factors and reasons for use of antibiotics can also be uncovered. **Ruminant health planning – England** The Animal Health and Welfare Pathway (AHWP) is a long-term, project partnership co-designed by government and industry, across cattle (beef and dairy), sheep, pig and poultry (layer and broiler) sectors to support continual improvement in health and welfare. Since funded vet visits began in 2023 there have been more than 8,000 visits benefiting hundreds of thousands of animals, with over 95% of farmers saying that they have or will take action based on the advice of their vet. The strong uptake and implementation of the advice supports increased disease resilience meaning healthier animals and greater food security which in turn will boost responsible medicine use alongside farmers profits. In February 2025 funded vet visits were expanded to include applications for multispecies vet visits. In June 2025 this opportunity was further expanded to include multiple herds or flocks belonging to the same farming business enabling further health planning and veterinary engagement on farms.	✓ ✓ ✓

Beef, Dairy and Calves Targets			
Measurement Metric	**Target**	**2024 status**	**Progress**
		Ruminant health planning - Scotland Preparing for Sustainable Farming (PSF) focuses on incentives to farmers and crofters to help them understand their Carbon emissions and sequestration, identifying recommendations that can lower these emissions and increase efficiencies. This funding helps farmers and crofters meet the requirements of the Whole Farm Plan. There are three options currently being funded in the first phase of Preparing for Sustainable Farming (PSF) that Scottish farmers, crofters, and agricultural contractors can claim funding for. These three options are: ● Animal Health and Welfare Interventions ● Carbon Audits ● Soil Sampling and Analysis In February 2025, an additional year worth of PSF funding was announced, with more than 8,500 claims received since 2022. Farm businesses are asked to undertake two plans and audits from the following options: animal health and welfare plan; nature report; carbon report; integrated pest management plan; and soil report. Businesses are free to select which two they undertake, based on their business practices. Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) has launched HerdPlan, farmer-focused livestock health planning software that has been funded by Scottish Government. HerdPlan is inclusive of all sizes of enterprise, puts the farmer at the centre of decision-making, and facilitates compliance with farm assurance and other external audit/ inspection requirements. Scottish Government's Agriculture Reform Programme's farm payments are now partially conditional on a "Whole Farm Plan", which has five elements including a livestock health plan. The livestock health plan format is not prescribed and existing health plans e.g. HerdPlan or health plans already produced for farm assurance, are acceptable. **Ruminant health planning - Northern Ireland** Animal Health and Welfare Northern Ireland (AHWNI) seeks to benefit livestock producers and processors by providing the knowledge, education and the coordination required to effectively control and wherever possible to eradicate the most important diseases of ruminant livestock within Northern Ireland. The initiative was formally launched in 2012 and is an industry-led, not-for-profit partnership between livestock producers, processors, animal health advisers and government AHWNI's role in medicine use within the Northern Ireland ruminant sector is to provide access to trusted best practice information as well as facilitate their optimized use. Central to this is developing strategies that limit the need for medicines through improved animal health. To support these aims, and facilitate informed discussion within the sector, AHWNI hosts and chairs the Northern Ireland Medicines Use Forum. This provides a focal point for discussion on the responsible use of medicines within the NI Agri-Food sector and on measures to ensure that they are used appropriately in regard to animal species, production type and clinical need.	

Beef, Dairy and Calves Targets			
Measurement Metric	**Target**	**2024 status**	**Progress**
		Dairy UK activity is focused on reducing medicine residues in raw milk through the implementation of its 2023 Medicine Residues strategy. The strategy seeks progress on: • Scope – ensuring activity covers all medicine types • Data Recording – encouraging data collection to cover on farm usage and all medicines. • Data Sharing and Analysis – ensuring farmers are given feedback on the data they provide. • Farmer Training – encouraging greater frequency and coverage of training. • Review of Farmer Training – ensuring all training packages are subject to periodic review • Antibiotic test frequency – increasing the frequency of testing • Selective Dry Cow Therapy – raising industry awareness of the restrictions placed on blanket dry cow therapy by the new Veterinary Medicines Regulation. • On farm legal compliance with medicines – clarifying sanctions for persistent misuse of medicines • Investigation of AB Fails – standardising investigation procedures for antibiotic test failures. • Analysis of Vet Investigation Reports – seeking to achieve a centralised analysis of vet investigation reports. • Earned Recognition – seeking opportunities to reduce duplication of investigations. To achieve these outcomes amongst others Dairy UK has been working with its members, Red Tractor, the BCVA and the VMD. Dairy UK is also continuing to provide secretariat support to the Action Johne's Initiative. Dairy UK also undertakes a Due Diligence survey of raw milk to detect any emerging issues on medicines usage that could affect raw milk quality. **The Animal Health and Plant Agency (APHA)** is an executive agency, sponsored by the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, the Welsh Government, and The Scottish Government. It has a team of veterinarians and scientists that specialise in antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and play a key role protecting animals and people from the risk of AMR. APHA's diagnostic service supports the diagnosis and identification of pathogens/diseases and facilitates far vet decisions on an appropriate treatment plan. In addition, sensitivity testing of bacterial isolates provides vets with evidence and guidance in selection of an appropriate antibiotic. Specific projects by APHA targeting the sensitivity of bacterial pathogens have included E. coli isolated from watery mouth in lambs as well as a Thin Ewe and Suckler Ewe Mastitis projects. A "Private Laboratories Initiative" involving APHA, aims to gain wider AMR data from the sector by gathering, analysing and reporting on sensitivity testing completed by private laboratories. The UK recently published its latest National Action Plan (NAP) confronting AMR. Since 2022, and as part of the previous NAP, APHA has been involved in a large cross government programme called PATH-SAFE (Pathogen Surveillance in Agriculture, Food and Environment). This programme focuses on improving the detection and tracking of foodborne human pathogens and associated AMR through the whole agriculture-food system from farm-to-fork. Find out more about the work of the APHA via the APHA Science blog.	

Beef, Dairy and Calves Targets			
Measurement Metric	**Target**	**2024 status**	**Progress**
Impact of Bovine Viral Diarrhoea	**Reduced non-compliances for BVD control in Red Tractor Dairy**	The compliance rate for BVD control in RT members is 96% in beef and 97% in Dairy.	✓ ✓
	Initiatives to tackle BVD in the UK cattle industry* *Formerly this box referenced: 'Calves sourced from farms eradicating BVD, or screened'. This target has been updated to reflect the broader industry effort underway to tackle BVD.	**BVDFree England** BVDFree England Launched in July 2016 and closed on 31st July 2024. This industry owned scheme delivered a voluntary elimination programme for BVD in cattle breeding herds in England. During its operation: ● 6,972 holdings were registered ● 45% of all beef and dairy breeding cattle in England were covered ● 1,953 holdings had a test-negative herd status ● 1,559,800 animals had individual negative status ● Over 110 industry supporters backed the scheme In June 2024, the endemics programme of the Animal Health and Welfare Pathway (England) launched its disease eradication and control programme to build on the initial advice given to famers in the Annual Animal Health and Welfare Review. For cattle, this industry-government co-designed programme provides three-years of financial support from Government to help control and eradicate BVD from herds in England. **CHeCS BVD eradication programme** As of end May 2025, the total number of herds on a CHeCS BVD programme was 3,384 with 2,633 herds on the Accredited Free Programme, 184 herds on the Vaccinated Monitored Free Programme and 567 herds on the Eradication Programme. Over 6,000 herds are members of a CHeCS health scheme for one or more of the following diseases – BVD, IBR, Johne's, Leptospirosis, Neospora and bovine TB. Broadly speaking over 90% of the herds on a CHeCS Scheme are beef herds, with the remaining percentage dairy, although this varies between diseases. **BVD in Wales (Gwaredu BVD):** The scheme had 9,369 farms (85% of farms) that had engaged with the programme by the close of the programme in December 2022. At the close of the programme 77% of farms were negative for BVD. In July 2024, following the success of the Gwaredu Bovine Viral Diarrhoea screening programme, and as part of industry and government partnership working, new legislation (The Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (Wales) Order 2024) was introduced in Wales to support farmers and vets screen and eradicate BVD from herds. The legislation requires cattle keepers in Wales to: ● Screen herds each year by testing a small number of cattle ● Isolate persistently infected animals frowm the rest of the herd for the remainder of their lives. Approximately 56% of farms were tested on the first year of the legislative programme. Work is being carried out increase the uptake in the second year before implementation of the full legislation.	✓ ✓

Beef, Dairy and Calves Targets			
Measurement Metric	**Target**	**2024 status**	**Progress**
		Scotland's BVD eradication programme has been compulsory since 2013. All breeding herds are included and registration is not required under the mandatory scheme. It is implemented at the herd level, with a primary focus on breeding herds—those where calves are born. As seen across the UK, the total number of herds in Scotland is declining due to ongoing consolidation, which has led to a rise in average herd size. There has been a slight increase in the percentage of registered herds with a BVD negative herd status – this is 93% as of 5 September 2025, which is based on EPIC's monthly summary report (see EPIC). On 5 September 2025 Scotland's breeding herd numbers were 1,177 accredited BVD negative, 5,890 screened negative, 553 not negative and 6 BVD positive herds. **The NI BVD Programme** has been industry-led since 2013 and is overseen by an Implementation Group, comprising key stakeholders and chaired by Animal Health and Welfare NI (AHWNI), a not-for-profit body that administers the Programme. The Programme is underpinned by legislation and there is ongoing collaboration with DAERA in aspects of monitoring and development of the scheme. BVD testing of all newborn calves and any bovine animals suspected of being infected with the BVD virus has been compulsory since March 2016. 100% of the NI breeding herd is included in the scheme, comprising over 21,000 herds Programme results are published on the AHWNI website: Programme Results – Animal Health & Welfare NI **BVD vaccination uptake** Analysis of UK vaccine uptake in cattle between 2011 and 2024 has been completed and is published on the AHDB website see https://ahdb.org.uk/knowledge-library/use-of-vaccines-in-cattle. Over the last decade vaccination for BVD has steadily fallen from 48% in 2014 to 34% in 2024. See website for further details.	

Beef, Dairy and Calves Sectors Indicators of Progress

✔ = in progress ✔✔ = well advanced ✔✔✔ = achieved

Dairy, Beef, and Calves Indicators of Progress		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Progress
Antibiotic use (centralised data)	**15% mg/kg fall in dairy herds by 2024; baseline 2020/21**	Data unavailable	Data pending Data pending	Data pending	Data pending	Data pending	✓
	25% mg/kg fall in calf rearing units by 2024; baseline 2020/21	Data unavailable	Data pending	Data pending	Data pending	Data pending	✓
Number of calves treated	**7.5 fewer treated/100 calves by 2024; baseline 2020/21**	Data unavailable	Data pending	Data pending	Data pending	Data pending	✓
Sales of lactating cow tubes in dairy	**Annual reduction in 3-yr rolling average; baseline of 0.69 DCDVet**	0.63 (2018-2020)	0.51 (2019-2021)	2022 – 0.43 (2020 – 2022)	0.38 rounded up (0.376) (2021-2023)	0.37 rounded up (0.370) (2022-2024)	✓✓✓
Sales of dry cow tubes in dairy	**Annual reduction in 3-yr rolling average; baseline of 0.59 DCDVet**	0.57 (2018-2020)	0.54 (2019-2021)	2022 – 0.49 (2020 – 2022)	0.53 rounded up (0.526) (2021-2023)	0.51 rounded up (0.508) (2022-2024)	✓✓✓
Highest priority antibiotic use (from centralised data)	**Reduction in dairy mg/kg by 2024; baseline 2020/2021**	Data unavailable	Data unavailable	Data pending	Data Pending	Data pending	✓
	Establish baseline for calves from 2020/2021 data, then review	Data unavailable	Data unavailable	Data pending	Data pending	Data pending	✓

Beef, Dairy and Calves Sectors Indicators of Progress

✔ = in progress ✔✔ = well advanced ✔✔✔ = achieved

Dairy, Beef, and Calves Indicators of Progress		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Progress
Highest priority antibiotic sales	**Reduction in cattle injectables by 2024; baseline 0.26 mg/kg**	0.29 mg/kg	Injectable HP CIA products licenced for cattle were 0.24mg/kg in 2021, representing an 18% reduction since 2020 (0.29mg/kg). There has been an 0.86 mg/kg (-78%) decrease since 2014.	Sales of injectable HP-CIA products licensed for cattle were 0.2mg/kg in 2022, which represents a 14% decrease since 2021 and an 81% reduction since 2014.	Sales of injectable HP-CIA products licensed for use in cattle were 0.19 mg/kg in 2023 having reduced by a further 9% (0.02 mg/kg) between 2022 and 2023. Sales have fallen by 83% (0.91 mg/kg) since 2014.	Sales of injectable HP-CIA products licensed for use in cattle remained at 0.19 mg/kg in 2024 (no change from 2023) having reduced by a further 9% (0.02 mg/kg) between 2022 and 2023. Sales have fallen by 83% (0.91 mg/kg) since 2014.	✓✓✓
	Reduction in tubes for dairy cows by 2024; baseline 0.03 DCDVet	0.07 mg/kg	Intramammary HP-CIA products in 2021 were 0.02mg/kg which is lowest they have been and represents a 96% reduction since 2014.	Sales of intramammary HP-CIA products licensed for cattle in 2022 were 0.014 DCDVet, which is 13% (0.002DCDVet) lower than in 2021 and represents a 96% decrease since 2014.	Sales of intramammary HP-CIA products licensed for cattle in 2023 were 0.0097 DCDVet, which is 30% (0.0043 DCDVet) lower than in 2022 and represents a 97% decrease since 2014	Sales of intramammary HP-CIA products licensed for cattle in 2024 were 0.0082 DCDVet, which is 16% (0.0015 DCDVet) lower than in 2023 and represents a 98% decrease since 2014	✓✓✓
Mortality rates	**Mortality falls in beef & dairy cows; baseline 2020**	Data unavailable	Data unavailable	Data no longer available due to data processing limitations.	Data no longer available due to data processing limitations.	Data no longer available due to data processing limitations.	N/A
	Calf mortality falls 1%/year 2020-2024; baseline 2018	Data unavailable	Data unavailable	Data no longer available due to data processing limitations.	Data no longer available due to data processing limitations.	Data no longer available due to data processing limitations.	N/A

Dairy, Beef, and Calves Indicators of Progress		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Progress
Health and welfare metrics	**Fall in dairy lameness and mastitis from various 2019 indicators**	As part of a wider project monitoring clinical and subclinical mastitis, data were collated from 79 'Sentinel' herds across the UK. This work was carried out by QMMS Ltd and the University of Nottingham, funded by AHDB Dairy under the Dairy Research Partnership. Between 2012 and 2020 there was a 32% reduction in mean clinical mastitis rate from 44.1 to 30.2 cases per 100 cows per year. Clearly, this reduction in clinical cases is likely to result in reduced use of antimicrobial therapy.	The AHDB Sentinel Herds Project involves collating data from 92 sentinel farms to monitor trends in mastitis over time at a national level. This work began in 2017 and was carried out by QMMS Ltd and the University of Nottingham, funded by AHDB Dairy under the Dairy Research Partnership. Between 2020 and 2021, there was a significant reduction (p	82 sentinel herds continued to show improvement in mastitis infection levels between 2021 and 2022, although only the reduction of 17%in dry period new infection rate reached statistical significance	Data pending	The prevalence of lameness in dairy cattle within the UK has been variable with wide ranges. The most recent estimates compiled by AHDB from UK research studies between 2010-2019 can be found in the UK Dairy Cattle Welfare Strategy Progress Report 2023-2025. Data from Kingshay and Kite Consulting suggests a reduction in lameness between 2020-2024 but there is currently no robust system to measure national prevalence. The GB Dairy Cow Lameness Manifesto, launched in January 2025, is an ambitious initiative which aims to incrementally reduce lameness in dairy herds by at least 10% every year, until at least 95% of all British dairy herds achieve a lameness prevalence of under 5% by 2044.	✓

Dairy, Beef, and Calves Indicators of Progress		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Progress
		At the same time, the mean weighted bulk milk somatic cell count dropped from 186,000 to 159,000 cells/ ml, suggesting a lower prevalence of infection and therefore improved mastitis control. One major change in prescribing habits over the past 10 years is the widespread introduction of selective dry cow therapy i.e. withholding antimicrobial treatment in uninfected cows. It is encouraging that this has not led to an increase in new infections over the dry period, as measured by a 40% reduction in clinical cases of dry period origin (mean 1.07◊0.64 cows in 12), and a 14% reduction in new cell count infections over the dry period (mean 18.0◊15.5%)				The manifesto has been developed by veterinary experts who are members of the Dairy Cattle Mobility Steering Group, and is supported by Ruminant Health and Welfare and The Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB) alongside farmers, processors and industry bodies. LANTRA has accredited two new industry created levels of foot trimming award, both of which are delivered by an accredited vet alongside a highly skilled hoof trimmer. AHDB's Healthy Feet Programme trains a growing number of vets and foot trimmers to be mobility mentors to support the implementation of expert research driven advice on farms to reduce lameness.	

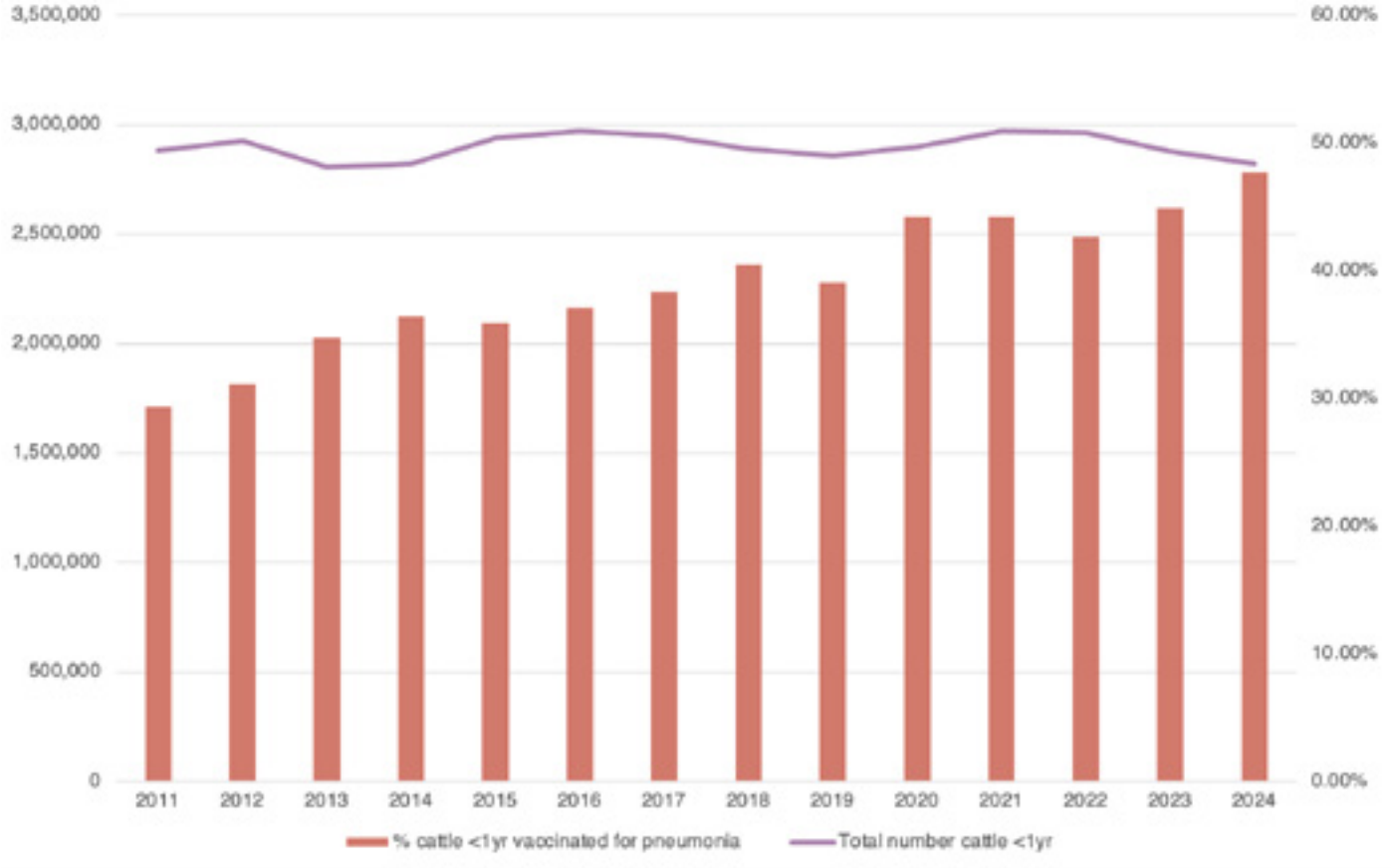
Dairy, Beef, and Calves Indicators of Progress		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Progress
						A condensed version – AHDB's Healthy Feet Lite programme - provides a streamlined, reduced cost version increasing the accessibility of the benefits to all dairy farmers. The UK Hoof Health Register, an initiative by the University of Liverpool and AHDB, aims to collate hoof lesion data from foot trimming and hoof-health records into a national database. This will be used to support AHDB's existing genetic evaluations for Lameness Advantage and Digital Dermatitis and enable further improvements for better selection.	

Dairy, Beef, and Calves Indicators of Progress		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Progress
						Dairy cow mastitis: Data from the National Milk Records, Kite Consulting and Kingshay suggests a reduction in both the incidence and prevalence of mastitis in dairy cattle between 2019 to 2024. Data and details can be found in the UK Dairy Cattle Welfare Strategy Progress Report 2023-2025. The GB National Dairy Mastitis Control Plan administered by The University of Nottingham and Quality Milk Management Services (QMMS Ltd) is an effective, evidence-based, nationwide plan for mastitis control.	

Dairy, Beef, and Calves Indicators of Progress		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Progress
						The QuarterPRO initiative was launched in 2020 by AHDB to support farmers achieve continuous improvement in mastitis and udder health on farm. It enables farmers, vets and advisors to implement a targeted plan to control and reduce infection on farm. In 2021, an automated Mastitis Pattern Analysis Tool was developed to further simplify the process allowing farmers access to a report when milk recording enabling identification of predominant mastitis patterns on farm.	

Dairy, Beef, and Calves Indicators of Progress		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Progress
	Fall in beef respiratory disease from various 2019 indicators			Data currently unavailable.	Data currently unavailable.	Data on respiratory disease is currently unavailable. Analysis of UK vaccine uptake in cattle between 2011 and 2024 has been completed and is published on the AHDB website see https://ahdb.org.uk/knowledge-library/use-of-vaccines-in-cattle. Vaccine uptake across the UK for prevention of respiratory diseases in calves under one year of age have shown a steady increase from 29% in 2011 to 48% in 2024. See graph below.	✓

Respiratory disease vaccination uptake



Sheep Sector

Overview

There has been ongoing and considerable progress in the sheep industry efforts towards responsible antibiotic stewardship despite a challenging environment in 2024. There is continued evidence of positive activity around responsible antimicrobial stewardship across the UK and further details of this will be provided within the launch of the forthcoming TTF3 report which sets out commitments for the third cycle of TTF targets.

The Sheep Antibiotic Guardian Group (SAGG) together with The Sheep Veterinary Society (SVS) have issued clear guidance to vets to ensure appropriate prescribing takes place, particularly in the face of challenging vaccine supply and to help in the practical outworkings of the new Veterinary Medicine Regulations. Data to date supports that the sheep industry are a low user of antibiotics with very low HP-CIA use.

The key challenges of note include:

- Significant vaccine supply disruption which continued to affect the industry during 2024, most particularly the supply of both enzootic abortion and clostridial vaccines.
- A second lambing season with Schmallenberg virus and Bluetongue.
- Ongoing complexities with data collation.

Due to the complexities that exist across this sector (scale and volume of enterprises) data collection is challenging. To help address this, the ruminant sector has now launched a ruminant antibiotic stewardship roadmap the aim of which is:

- To identify how to further promote and demonstrate responsible antibiotic stewardship (ABS) at UK ruminant farm-level to drive progress and enhance animal health and welfare.
- To work in partnership with ongoing initiatives, strengthen existing activity, to co-design a unified framework for the collation and reporting of sufficient evidence of antibiotic usage (ABU) at UK national level to satisfy both customers and authorities.

Medicine Hub

The Medicine Hub figures included in this RUMA TTF Report do not represent a full year of data collection for the sheep sector. This is because annual data for 2024 will continue to be inputted right up until the end of 2025. This reflects the cycle of on-farm data collection in the sheep sector which is often aligned to the annual vet/farmer reviews of flock health plans as part of farm assurance. The figures in the TTF report cannot therefore be taken as fully comprehensive and only provide a ‘snapshot’ at the time of going to print.

The sheep industry continues its support of Medicine Hub (MH) from AHDB, and its encouragement of sheep farmers and vets to input data. The third collated dataset of antibiotic use in the UK cattle and sheep sectors is now available from Medicine Hub, which has been developed and resourced by AHDB on behalf of industry. Totalling 8,878 enterprises across dairy, beef and sheep, these are still early data but give an indication of antibiotic use in ruminants.

It is important to note that the industry is large, and this number of enterprises is not considered representative of the wider industry. Anecdotally, it has always been felt that the ruminant sector was a low user of antibiotics, but the data have not been available, particularly in the sheep and beef sectors, to validate this view. The good news is that the data being seen across dairy, beef and sheep from Medicine Hub, which is still preliminary, go some way to giving that confidence. It is also becoming evident that the use of Highest Priority Critically Important Antibiotics (HP-CIAs) is minimal across the ruminant sector.

Medicine Hub uptake to date has been voluntary and the scale and complexity of the ruminant sector means it will take time to build up the volume of data. Given the diversity of farms in the sectors, as more enterprises enter data, the usage figures are expected to change. Neither is it possible to draw conclusions by directly comparing 2022, 2023 and 2024 published data, as they will not be derived from exactly the same dataset year to year. However, the depth of understanding and value of the data to the industry will continue to increase. As data submission accelerates over the next couple of years, the data will become more robust, such that industry can set a national baseline of current performance and start to implement management strategies based on data and intelligence from Medicine Hub, within enterprise types.

A total of 2,306 sheep enterprises were submitted at the time of the RUMA TTF Report going to print (not a full year of data), coverage equivalent to 10% of the UK sheep population. Mean antibiotic usage was calculated to be 6.5 mg/kg. This differs slightly from the figures (6.2mg/kg or 6.9mg/PCU) contained in the UK VARSS Report. Medicine Hub has adopted the Sheep Health and Welfare Group (SHAWG) methodology to calculate sheep metrics. This includes topical antibiotics, which are more widely used in sheep production and also includes flock replacements in the denominator, alongside ewes and finished lambs. Mean usage of HP-CIAs was particularly low for sheep at 0.0003 mg/kg. Both the “mg/PCU” and “mg/kg” metrics published are extremely useful for national trend monitoring within the dairy, sheep and beef sectors. However, due to the differences in how these figures are calculated, they should not be used to compare antibiotic use between the different sectors. These are still very early days in the drive to capture a comprehensive picture of antibiotic use across the beef, dairy and sheep sectors. Work continues to engage stakeholders all along the supply chain to encourage even more use of Medicine Hub for new and existing data sets, in order to strive towards achieving the ambitious targets set for Medicine Hub for the years ahead. Medicine Hub is grateful for the collaboration of individual farmers, vets, bulk data holders/data integrators (Map of Ag, Foods Connected), farmer groups (Welsh Lamb and Beef Producers), the FIIA Group and others for sharing, or facilitating access, to these important data.

Sheep Sector Progress Against Targets

✔ = in progress ✔✔ = well advanced ✔✔✔ = achieved

Sheep Sector Targets			
Measurement Metric	**Target**	**2024 status**	**Progress**
Calculation, benchmarking and central upload of data	**Data from 8,000 (10% of total) UK sheep flocks captured by 2024**	Medicine Hub (MH) - please see MH summary in the overview section above. A total of 2,306 sheep enterprises were submitted at the time of the RUMA TTF Report going to print (not a full year of data), coverage equivalent to 10% of the UK sheep population. Mean antibiotic usage was calculated to be 6.5 mg/kg. This differs slightly from the figures (6.2mg/kg or 6.9mg/PCU) contained in the UK VARSS Report. Mean HP-CIA use was 0.0003 mg/kg. Work continues to engage stakeholders all along the supply chain to encourage support of data into Medicine Hub, with further collaborative activity planned within TTF3. Red Tractor: The number of beef and lamb members at the end of 2024 was 18,578 and the number of dairy members was 10,336. The beef and lamb scheme only covers England whereas the Dairy scheme covers England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Scheme stats: ● The compliance rate for medicine training is 95% in Beef and lamb and 97% in dairy ● The compliance rate for Health plan is 84% in beef and lamb and 90% in dairy. Looking at more granular data, the majority of non-conformances raised were because the health plan hadn't been signed/reviewed annually rather than no health plan being in place. Welsh Lamb & Beef Producers Ltd (WLBP) members continue to work with their veterinary surgeons to calculate the average amount of antibiotics used on beef, sheep, and dairy farms in Wales using the WLBP Antimicrobial Calculator. Members of the Farm Assured Welsh Livestock (FAWL) scheme are required to have their antibiotic usage calculated on the platform. This process takes place during the annual health and welfare review, which the vet completes in conjunction with the farmers, taking the burden away from the farmers needing to upload and calculate their own usage data. Antibiotic sales data are captured and collated via the specially designed WLBP AMU Calculator. This novel reporting tool produces standardised antimicrobial usage (AMU) reports based on industry-agreed metrics. The results are expressed as milligrams of antibiotic used per kilogram of animal, a measurement accepted by government and supply chain stakeholders. Welsh farmers and vets have embraced this voluntary approach, which has resulted in what is believed to be the largest independent data set of its kind in the UK. WLBP have produced their third Annual Antimicrobial Use Report providing detailed analysis of antimicrobial use (AMU) in 6060 beef, sheep and dairy enterprises across Wales in 2023. All three reports can be accessed below: https://wlbp.co.uk/wlbp-annual-amu-reports/2023 https://wlbp.co.uk/wlbp-annual-amu-reports/2022 https://wlbp.co.uk/wlbp-annual-amu-reports/2021	✓

Sheep Sector Targets			
Measurement Metric	**Target**	**2024 status**	**Progress**
Farm Vet Champions (FVCs) network	**2,800 FVCs in 900 veterinary practices across UK by 2024**	By August 2025, there are 1,195 enrolled users on the FVC course, of which 958 have accessed content (with 648 of these pledged to be FVC). 66 SMART goals have been set (across 17 teams and 49 individuals) with 23 teams created. RCVS Knowledge has promoted FVC at 9 events reaching over 800 delegates. The number of FVC users identifying as vet students – 161 users have selected student status. Resources are available for all organisations and all veterinary team members to use to promote further uptake in the network, training materials, and the SMART Goals tool. **Veterinary Prescribing Champions (VPC) Network** The VPC Network in Wales empowers vets as local Antibiotic Stewardship (ABS) Champions, emphasising peer-learning and building a national community of practice aimed at ABS in ruminants. Covering nearly 90% of livestock practices, the VPC Network provides workshops, peer discussion groups, and behaviour change training. Two specialist working groups within the VPC Network have collaboratively developed a voluntary Code of Prescribing Conduct for veterinary prescribing practices across Wales, aiming to promote integrity, consistency and accountability in ABU. Alongside this, VPC working groups have developed a series of Clinical Guidelines for six key diseases of cattle and sheep which have been rolled out into participating practices.	✓
Training uptake among vets	Specify appropriate training within Farm Vet Champion plan	**Farm Vet Champions (FVCs) network** See FVC information above. A total of 23 teams have been created with 66 SMART goals being set. There have been nine events, and over 800 delegates reached through the network. **Veterinary Prescribing Champions (VPC) Network** See VPC information above.	✓

Sheep Sector Targets			
Measurement Metric	**Target**	**2024 status**	**Progress**
Medicines best practice training uptake among farmers	**Training becomes requirement in Beef/Lamb farm assurance**	**Red Tractor (RT) Medicine Training**: The number of Beef & Lamb members at the end of 2024 was 18,578 (England) with 95% of members having completed medicine training. **RT Health Plans** 84% of B&L members show compliance with the requirement to have a health plan. The granularity of the data shows that the majority of non-conformances raised were because the health plan hadn't been signed/ reviewed annually rather than no health plan being in place. **NOAH's** Animal Medicines Best Practice (AMBP) farmer training for dairy, beef and sheep farmers was updated in 2024 to reflect the proactive approach to animal management that is required to minimise antibiotic use. The course is presented in interactive bite-sized sections and focuses on disease prevention, through measures such as vaccination and biosecurity. A total of 228 people purchased the AMBP courses in 2024 representing a 30% increase in the course content that was accessed in comparison to 2023. The beef course represented 60% of the courses sold in 2024, with dairy representing 29% and sheep representing the remaining 11%. **Northern Ireland Beef and Lamb Farm Quality Assurance Scheme (NIBL FQAS)** There are 11,547 active participants across sheep and cattle for NIBL FQAS. In Northern Ireland it is mandatory for participants of the Northern Ireland Beef and Lamb Farm Quality Assurance Scheme (NIBL FQAS) to attend training on the Responsible Use of Antimicrobials. Scheme standards require that all persons involved in the administration of animal medication must be competent based on experience and/or training to perform the tasks they are required to undertake. In addition, at least one person responsible for administering animal medicines must be formally trained in the responsible use of antimicrobials. From 2020-2023 the College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE) provided training to over 10,600 FQAS farm businesses on the Responsible use of Antimicrobials on beef and sheep farms. This training was open to all beef and sheep farmers, free of charge under the Farm Family Key Skills Programme (FFKS). Any FQAS participants who did not avail of this training or are new applicants to the scheme must complete Responsible Use of Antimicrobials training from the approved list of courses. A written herd/flock health plan, which includes a farm bio-security policy, must be established, implemented and reviewed at least annually or more frequently in the event of any substantial changes to husbandry practices. A Health, Performance & Antibiotic Usage Review must be completed in consultation with the farm vet. Farmers must consult with their vet before using Highest Priority Critically Important Antibiotics (HP-CIA's) (3rd and 4th generation cephalosporins, fluoroquinolones, polymyxins (colistin)). The farm bio-security policy must identify the risks of disease being introduced onto the farm relating to animals, vehicles and personnel moving on and off the farm, and detail the procedures that are in place for minimising the risk. As a minimum, farms must have cleaning and washing facilities and a DAERA approved disinfectant available for personnel, vehicles or machinery coming from or going to other livestock farms or premises. The DAERA approved disinfectant must be effective against Foot and Mouth Disease, TB and General Orders.	✓✓

Sheep Sector Targets			
Measurement Metric	**Target**	**2024 status**	**Progress**
		Quality Meat Scotland (QMS) has recently completed the latest review of the Cattle & Sheep Assurance Scheme Standards with the updated Standards coming into effect from 1 January 2026. QMS Standards require farm personnel with responsibilities for livestock and farming operations relating to livestock (including any contractors) to be demonstrably competent in all the tasks they are required and permitted to undertake. It is recommended that at least one member of staff responsible for administering medicines has undertaken training in the administration and handling of medicines. Farm Assured Welsh Livestock (FAWL) Scheme requires all farm personnel with responsibilities for livestock and for farming operations (including any contractor employed) to be competent. Members are required to have their antibiotic usage calculated on the WLBP platform with antibiotic sales data captured and collated via the specially designed AMU Calculator. This process takes place during the annual health and welfare review, which the vet completes in conjunction with the farmers, taking the burden away from the farmers needing to upload and calculate their own usage data. Developed by Welsh Lamb & Beef Producers (WLBP), the AMU Calculator enables farms to benchmark ABU transparently. Integrated into annual health and welfare reviews through the FAWL farm assurance scheme, it supports continuous improvement and evidence-based decision making. The Calculator's success is evidenced by its reach across Welsh livestock farms, with >15,000 calculations collated from WLBP's >7000 members, positioning Wales as a leader in farm-level antibiotic monitoring.	
Medicines best practice training uptake among students	**All vet school and agriculture college/ university courses include medicines best practice content by 2024**	All vet school courses include information on medicines best practice. There are 161 Farm Vet Champion users who have identified as veterinary students (though this is not a compulsory field so may not encompass all student users). Each of the devolved nations have animal health planning within ongoing funding streams. The Vet School Council (VSC) In May 2024, The Vet School Council (VSC) and FIIA published a joint report 'A new vision for responsible antibiotic use' with a call for improved availability of national level AMU data across all farm species: FINAL-VSC-FIIA-AMR-report-A-new-vision-for-antibiotic-use-1.pdf	✓✓

Sheep Sector Targets			
Measurement Metric	**Target**	**2024 status**	**Progress**
Farmer & vet herd/flock health plans	**Increased health planning on sheep farms tracked through FVCs**	Each of the devolved nations have animal health planning within ongoing funding streams. A snapshot of some of the activities being carried out across the UK are outlined below. **Ruminant health planning – Wales** The Arwain DGC Programme in Wales represents a pioneering multi-partner initiative addressing ABS, ABU and antibiotic resistance (ABR) through coordinated stewardship, surveillance and technological innovation across the agricultural and veterinary sectors. Led by Mentera in partnership with Welsh Lamb & Beef Producers (WLBP), the University of Bristol, Iechyd Da and Aberystwyth University, this programme builds a national ecosystem for ABS, embedding interventions across Wales's ruminant sector. Syndromic Surveillance: Arwain DGC funds a Wales-specific pilot of the Farm Animal Veterinary Surveillance Network (FAVSNET) - a real-time, syndromic surveillance system adapted from the University of Liverpool's platform. Collaborating with the Welsh Veterinary Science Centre and Iechyd Da, the system collects electronic health record data from participating practices across Wales to track disease symptoms and identify emerging threats. The project also leverages AI to detect patterns in high ABU syndromes such as mastitis, pneumonia, lameness, abortion and joint ill, in order to support early interventions that prevent unnecessary ABU. ABU & ABR Surveillance: University of Bristol researchers lead an active ABR surveillance programme on Welsh beef, sheep, dairy and mixed-species farms. By analysing environmental and faecal samples collected regularly throughout the year on a cohort of 70 farms, researchers can identify changing patterns of ABR, transmission of bacteria and genes as well as risk factors for development of ABR. Using data from the AMU Calculator, associations between ABU and ABR can be elucidated and risk factors and reasons for use of antibiotics can also be uncovered. **Ruminant health planning – England** The Animal Health and Welfare Pathway (AHWP) is a long-term, project partnership co-designed by government and industry, across cattle (beef and dairy), sheep, pig and poultry (layer and broiler) sectors to support continual improvement in health and welfare. Since funded vet visits began in 2023 there have been more than 8,000 visits benefiting hundreds of thousands of animals, with over 95% of farmers saying that they have or will take action based on the advice of their vet. The strong uptake and implementation of the advice supports increased disease resilience meaning healthier animals and greater food security which in turn will boost responsible medicine use alongside farmers profits. In February 2025 funded vet visits were expanded to include applications for multispecies vet visits. In June 2025 this opportunity was further expanded to include multiple herds or flocks belonging to the same farming business enabling further health planning and veterinary engagement on farms.	✓✓

Sheep Sector Targets			
Measurement Metric	**Target**	**2024 status**	**Progress**
		Ruminant health planning - Scotland Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) has launched HerdPlan, farmer-focused livestock health planning software that has been funded by Scottish Government. HerdPlan is inclusive of all sizes of enterprise, puts the farmer at the centre of decision-making, and facilitates compliance with farm assurance and other external audit/ inspection requirements. Scottish Government's Agriculture Reform Programme's farm payments are now partially conditional on a "Whole Farm Plan", which has five elements including a livestock health plan. The livestock health plan format is not prescribed and existing health plans e.g. HerdPlan or health plans already produced for farm assurance, are acceptable. Preparing for Sustainable Farming (PSF) focuses on incentives to farmers and crofters to help them understand their Carbon emissions and sequestration, identifying recommendations that can lower these emissions and increase efficiencies. This funding helps farmers and crofters meet the requirements of the Whole Farm Plan. There are three options currently being funded in the first phase of Preparing for Sustainable Farming (PSF) that Scottish farmers, crofters, and agricultural contractors can claim funding for. These three options are: ● Animal Health and Welfare Interventions ● Carbon Audits ● Soil Sampling and Analysis In February 2025, an additional year of PSF funding was announced, with more than 8,500 claims received since 2022. Farm businesses are asked to undertake two plans and audits from the following options: animal health and welfare plan; nature report; carbon report; integrated pest management plan; and soil report. Businesses are free to select which two they undertake, based on their business practices. **Ruminant health planning - Northern Ireland** Animal Health and Welfare Northern Ireland (AHWNI) seeks to benefit livestock producers and processors by providing the knowledge, education and the coordination required to effectively control and wherever possible to eradicate the most important diseases of ruminant livestock within Northern Ireland. The initiative was formally launched in 2012 and is an industry-led, not-for-profit partnership between livestock producers, processors, animal health advisers and government AHWNI's role in medicine use within the Northern Ireland ruminant sector is to provide access to trusted best practice information as well as facilitate their optimized use. Central to this is developing strategies that limit the need for medicines through improved animal health. To support these aims, and facilitate informed discussion within the sector, AHWNI hosts and chairs the Northern Ireland Medicines Use Forum. This provides a focal point for discussion on the responsible use of medicines within the NI Agri-Food sector and on measures to ensure that they are used appropriately in regard to animal species, production type and clinical need.	

Sheep Sector Targets			
Measurement Metric	**Target**	**2024 status**	**Progress**
		The Animal Health and Plant Agency (APHA) is an executive agency, sponsored by the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, the Welsh Government, and The Scottish Government. It has a team of veterinarians and scientists that specialise in antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and play a key role protecting animals and people from the risk of AMR. APHA's diagnostic service supports the diagnosis and identification of pathogens/diseases and facilitates far vet decisions on an appropriate treatment plan. In addition, sensitivity testing of bacterial isolates provides vets with evidence and guidance in selection of an appropriate antibiotic. Specific projects by APHA targeting the sensitivity of bacterial pathogens have included E. coli isolated from watery mouth in lambs as well as a Thin Ewe and Suckler Ewe Mastitis projects. A "Private Laboratories Initiative" involving APHA, aims to gain wider AMR data from the sector by gathering, analysing and reporting on sensitivity testing completed by private laboratories. The UK recently published its latest National Action Plan (NAP) confronting AMR. Since 2022, and as part of the previous NAP, APHA has been involved in a large cross government programme called PATH-SAFE (Pathogen Surveillance in Agriculture, Food and Environment). This programme focuses on improving the detection and tracking of foodborne human pathogens and associated AMR through the whole agriculture-food system from farm-to-fork. Find out more about the work of the APHA via the APHA Science blog.	

Sheep Sector Indicators of Progress

✔ = in progress ✔✔ = well advanced ✔✔✔ = achieved

Sheep Sector Indicators of Progress		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Progress
Oral antibiotic sales for lambs	**Annual reduction of 10% in doses/year; baseline 7.45 million**	21.5% reduction from 7.45 million doses in the year from Sept 19 to Aug 20 to 5.85 million doses in the year from Sept 20 to Aug 21 47.9% reduction over last 5 years	No longer an applicable metric. Following the considerable reduction in use of oral antibiotic for neonatal lambs reported in the last TTF report, all authorised products were removed from the market for the 2022 lambing season which means that using the same metrics as previous years, usage would now be zero.	No longer an applicable metric. Following the considerable reduction in use of oral antibiotic for neonatal lambs reported in the last TTF report, all authorised products were removed from the market for the 2022 lambing season. Vets had the option to import an equivalent oral spectinomycin from Europe and SAGG continued to monitor import licences and UK purchases. Sales of imported spectinomycin for lambing 2023 were less than half of what they were for lambing 2022 and only 7% of the 2021 oral spectinomycin sales.	There are no authorised oral antibiotics available for neonatal lambs so this is no longer a metric that is useful.	There are no authorised oral antibiotics available for neonatal lambs so this is no longer a metric that is useful.	N/A
Highest priority antibiotic use (from centralised data)	**Ensure does not rise in sheep above 0.05% of total sheep use**	Use remains very low and there is no evidence that it has increased.	Use remains very low and there is no evidence that it has increased. Exact figures pending	Use remains very low and there is no evidence that it has increased. Exact figures pending.	Use remains very low and there is no evidence that it has increased.	Use remains very low, continues to be monitored and remains below 0.05% of total use.	✓

Sheep Sector Indicators of Progress		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Progress
Mortality rates	**Increase in lamb survivability from various indicators**	Completion of levy board Neonatal Survival Project – planned vet CPD courses. Survivability data and trends not currently available.	Survivability data and trends not currently available. The Neonatal Survival Project (a collaborative project funded by the joint levy boards of England, Scotland and Wales) culminated in vet CPD sessions in January 2021 with 41 attendees over three events, and very positive feedback.	Survivability data and trends not currently available. In light of ongoing issues with sheep vaccine supplies, SAGG will consider in 2024 whether national surveillance data on abortions could provide a useful metric to report EAE and toxoplasmosis prevalence trends against vaccine use.	Following the recommendation from SAGG last year, national surveillance data on abortions has been sourced. Schmallenberg virus (SBV) causes abortions and stillbirths in sheep. As a midge-born virus, it periodically impacts UK sheep flocks. A 2024 Schmallenberg survey undertaken by University of Nottingham demonstrated higher lambing mortality in 2024 compared with the previous survey undertaken in the last SBV year 2016/17. Participant comments directly attributed this high mortality to due to Schmallenberg virus as well as the very poor lambing season weather in 2024.	National surveillance data on abortions has continued to be sourced. Schmallenberg virus (SBV) causes abortions and stillbirths in sheep. As a midge-born virus, it periodically impacts UK sheep flocks. A 2025 Schmallenberg survey undertaken by University of Nottingham demonstrated a lower lambing mortality in 2024/25 compared with the previous lambing year (2023/24) with mortality figures similar to those seen in the SBV year of 2016/17. This is in line with surveillance monitoring by the APHA indicating that the SBV virus outbreak was much smaller scale in 2024-5. The UK met office reported that 2025 saw the sixth driest spring since 1836; the driest spring in over 50 years.	✓

Sheep Sector Indicators of Progress		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Progress
						The comments in the 2024/25 survey reflect the benefits this weather has had on lambing 2025, very different to the very wet spring conditions in the 2023/24 survey. However, residual anxiety about SBV was also evident within farmer perceived impacts. The 2025 survey also included several questions on general lamb husbandry and health to start to gather baseline data on general flock management at lambing. The survey will be repeated for the 2025/2026 lambing season.	

Sheep Sector Indicators of Progress		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Progress
Health and welfare metrics	**Increased annual uptake of vaccines in sheep, baseline 2019**	Analysis of vaccine use in sheep and cattle for 2020 was completed and was published on the AHDB website as webpages - http:// www.ahdb.org.uk/vaccineuse. Penetration of EAE vaccine increased from 43% in 2019 to 50% in 2020 and penetration of Footrot vaccine increased from 14% in 2019 to 16% in 2020.	Analysis of UK vaccine use in sheep for 2021 has been completed and is published on the AHDB website. For the sheep vaccines monitored, the total number of doses sold increased by 12.6% between 2011 and 2021. Penetration of clostridial disease vaccines increased from 57.0% in 2020 to 62.8% in 2021, with a 10.2% increase in doses sold observed within this period. Similarly, penetration of Footrot vaccinations increased from 15.6% in 2020 to 19.4% in 2021. Penetration of EAE vaccines only increased by 0.7% between 2020 and 2021 and penetration of Toxoplasma vaccinations remained at 30.7% between 2020 and 2021.	Analysis of UK vaccine use in sheep for 2022 has been completed and is published on the AHDB website (https://ahdb.org.uk/knowledge-library/use-of-vaccines-in-sheep). For the sheep vaccines monitored, the total number of doses sold increased by 13.9% between 2011 and 2022 to approximately 37 million doses. From 2021 to 2022, Clostridia and Pasteurella vaccine use increased. Unfortunately, due to vaccine supply shortages, use of Footrot, Toxoplasma and EAE vaccinations decreased during this period. In 2022, the estimated proportion of sheep vaccinated for clostridial diseases (65.2%) and for pasteurellosis (52.4%) were both above the 2012-2022 average. In the year to 2022, the number of doses of Clostridia vaccine sold increased by 3.8%, whilst the number of doses of Pasteurella vaccine increased by 2.7%.	Vaccine supply has again been challenging so Sheep Veterinary Society (SVS) and Sheep Antibiotic Guardian Group (SAGG) have been keeping a close eye on the situation and released a press release in the light of the lack of EAE abortion vaccine to urge ongoing responsible use of antibiotics. Analysis of UK vaccine uptake in sheep for 2023 has been completed and is published on the AHDB website (https://ahdb.org.uk/knowledge-library/use-of-vaccines-in-sheep). For the sheep vaccines monitored, the total number of doses sold decreased by 9.2% between 2022 and 2023 to approximately 33.6 million doses.	Vaccine supply has again been challenging so Sheep Veterinary Society (SVS) and Sheep Antibiotic Guardian Group (SAGG) have been keeping a close eye on the situation and released a press release in the light of the lack of EAE abortion vaccine to urge ongoing responsible use of antibiotics. To mark World Animal Vaccination Day (20 April 2025) and World Immunisation Week (24–30 April 2025), SVS and SAGG promoted NOAH's Livestock Vaccination Guidelines – a practical resource to support responsible vaccination and proactive animal health planning on UK dairy, beef, and sheep farms.	✓

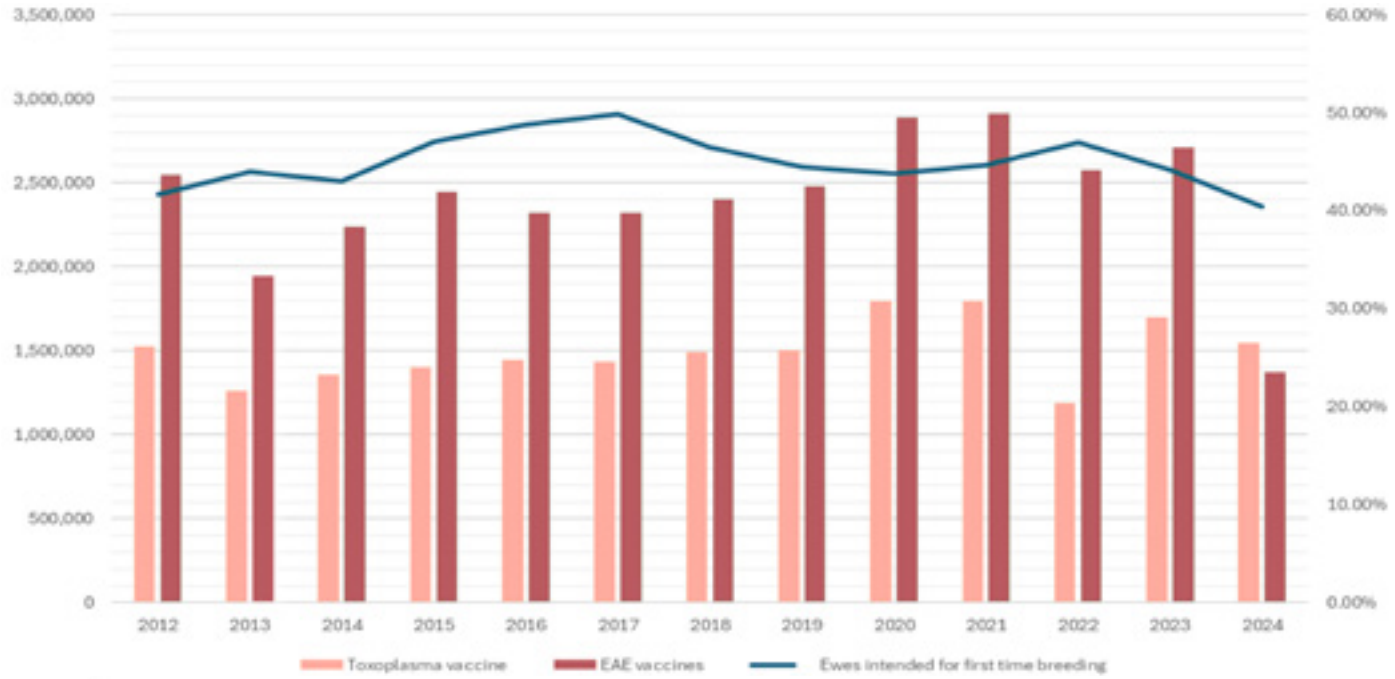
Sheep Sector Indicators of Progress		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Progress
			NOAH has launched a Livestock Vaccination Guideline (for dairy, beef, and sheep sectors), providing support to vets, SQPs and farmers, to help improve the health and welfare of UK sheep and cattle and support farm resilience and sustainable improvements in productivity.	The estimated proportion of breeding sheep vaccinated for Toxoplasma decreased from 30.7% in 2021 to 20.3% in 2022. Uptake of Footrot vaccinations, which had previously risen rapidly to 19.4% during 2021, fell to 16.3% in 2022. Similarly, uptake of EAE vaccines fell from 49.9% to 44.1% during the year to 2022. There was a large reduction in Toxoplasma vaccination use from 30.7% in 2021 to 20.3% in 2022. These decreases are likely a result of supply issues with Footvax, Toxovax and EAE vaccinations in 2021 and 2022.	From 2022 to 2023 Clostridia and Pasteurella vaccine uptake decreased marginally but supply of these vaccines were very challenging in 2023 and could largely explain this drop. Footrot vaccine uptake is up from 16.3% to 17.8%, following ongoing supply shortages in 2022 which took some time to recover. Recovery from supply shortages were also seen in the uptake of Toxoplasma vaccines increasing from 20.3% to 29.1%, and Enzootic Abortion of Ewes (EAE) vaccines increasing from 44.1% to 46.4%. Unfortunately, further supply issues in 2024 will see this drop again this coming year. The abortion vaccine graph can be seen alongside the APHA VIDA data on abortion diagnoses in England and Wales.*	The overall ongoing supply situation is fragile with the impending risks of a widespread bluetongue serotype 3 (BTV3) outbreak putting further pressure on vaccine manufacture. The Sheep Veterinary Society (SVS) and Sheep Antibiotic Guardian Group (SAGG) have issued clear guidance to vets to ensure appropriate prescribing takes place, particularly in the face of challenging vaccine supply and to help in the practical outworkings of the new Veterinary Medicine Regulations. Schmallenberg and Bluetongue viruses have dominated conversations for the ruminant sectors for much of 2024 and 2025. Three vaccines have been developed and licenced for use in the UK for BTV-3. AHDB have launched vaccine calculators for sheep, beef and dairy to help vets and farmers calculate the costs of vaccinations and the savings made by using them. See: BTV-3 vaccination finance calculator (sheep) | AHDB	

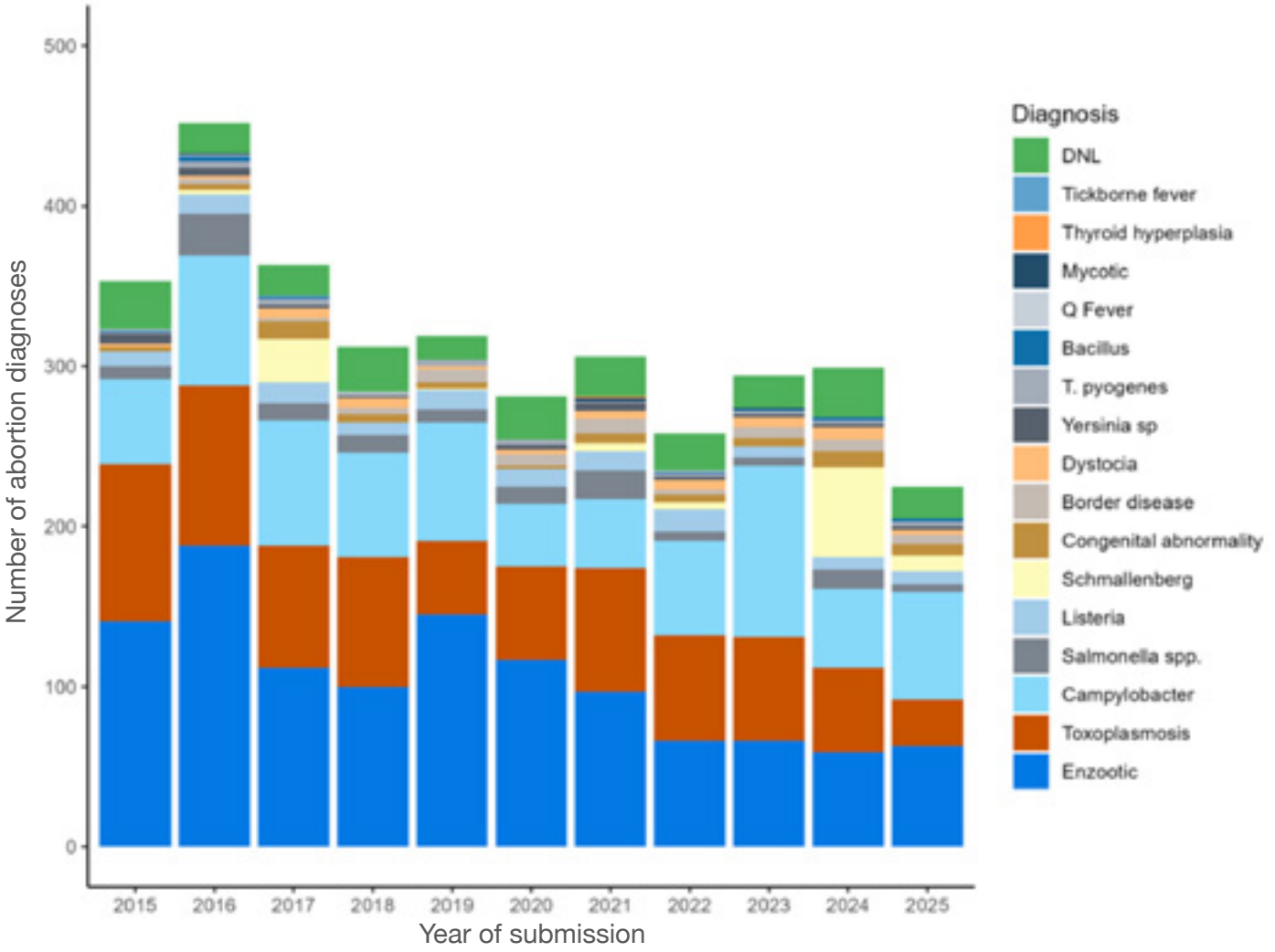
Sheep Sector Indicators of Progress		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Progress
				A recent longitudinal study over six years failed to demonstrate a direct link between the quantity of antibiotic and vaccine use on 272 GB sheep farms[1] though the authors point out that there are a wide range of potential confounding biological and behavioural factors that may influence the relationship between vaccine use, vaccine efficacy, disease prevalence and AMU and that unravelling this complex relationship was outside the scope of the study. For this reason, as well as the ethical and welfare benefits to preventative health measures such as vaccination, SAGG considers it is important to continue to encourage and monitor vaccine use in the sheep sector.		The growing concerns around ongoing vaccine shortages for UK livestock sectors over recent years has led to a vaccine survey to gather the views of vets, farmers and SQPs. The survey launched by RUMA in May 2025 was welcomed and widely circulated by the sheep sector. Results will be available later this year. Moredun have developed a new generation vaccine against louping ill virus in sheep which has been shown to be highly effective in research trials. The industry are working together to crowd fund commercialisation due to the niche UK market for the vaccine making the usual route to market via pharmaceutical companies impossible. Support the New Louping Ill Vaccine – Moredun Research Institute Analysis of UK vaccine uptake in sheep for 2024 has been completed and is published on the AHDB website (https://ahdb.org.uk/knowledge-library/use-of-vaccines-in-sheep).	

[1] Longitudinal study of antimicrobial use patterns, vaccination and disease prevalence in British sheep flocks Peers L. Davies, Robert M. Hyde, Fiona M. Lovatt *First published: 20 March 2023* https://doi.org/10.1002/vetr.2786

Sheep Sector Indicators of Progress		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Progress
						For the sheep vaccines monitored, the total number of doses sold decreased by 7.1% between 2023 and 2024 to a total of approximately 34.8 million doses. From 2023 to 2024 Clostridia and Pasteurella vaccine uptake decreased by 3.8% and 8.6% respectively. Footrot vaccine uptake is down slightly from 17.8% to 16.5%. The uptake of Toxoplasma vaccines decreased from 29.1% to 26.5%, and Enzootic Abortion of Ewes (EAE) vaccines decreased dramatically from 46.4% to 23.5%*. The abortion vaccine graph can be seen alongside the APHA VIDA data on abortion diagnoses in England and Wales below.*	

Abortion vaccination





APHA VIDA data on Abortion diagnosis in England and Wales on submission of foetus or stillborn lamb from 2015 to 2025
Key – DNL means 'Diagnosis not listed' i.e. a diagnosis was reached that does not have a VIDA code.
'Diagnosis not reached' submissions excluded (these make up approximately 40% of foetal submissions each year)

Pig Sector

Overview

The pig sector has continued its emphasis on responsible use rather than zero use – animal health and welfare remain key priorities. The 2023 and 2024 antibiotic usage figures are very similar: 2024 is 1.6% higher than 2023, potentially indicating a stabilisation in usage after the rise seen between 2022 and 2023. HP-CIA (AMEG Category B) use remains very low with no colistin usage in 2024. This shows continued commitment by the pig sector to use antibiotics responsibly even in the face of significant challenges.

The health challenges that were referenced in the 2023 RUMA TTF report remained pertinent during 2024: cases of swine dysentery diagnosed in 2024 rose again on number of diagnoses: 2023 = 47 diagnoses & 2024 = 54 diagnoses (data from GB Pig Disease surveillance dashboard https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/siu.apha/viz/PigDashboard/Overview). The pig sector is aware of the impact of increasing Swine Dysentery on antibiotic usage and has formed an industry working group to address this. The problem will require a cross-sector solution, and the sector has been fortunate in working with the AMAST (AMr in Agrifood Systems Transdisciplinary) Network to help achieve this. General enteric health has been less stable: the number of diagnoses of diarrhoea or gastrointestinal as the main presenting sign was 522 in 2024 versus 399 in 2023 (data from GB Pig Disease surveillance dashboard – see earlier link). Vaccine availability issues have also continued throughout 2024 impacting health management and disease prevention strategies.

The pig sector set an ambitious target of 30% reduction in usage by end of 2024 – this was reached in 2022. There were six key challenges identified at the inception of TTF2:

- Ban on therapeutic ZnO
- New or emerging diseases
- Rapid decline of in-feed medication
- Vaccine availability
- Antibiotic availability
- Impact of Brexit

All the challenges detailed opposite (see pink box) have presented themselves during the four-year cycle of RUMA TTF2, with the impacts of each being fully or partially felt by the pig sector. The 2023 and 2024 eMB figures have evidenced the impact of those challenges identified at the launch of TTF2. Stabilisation of usage between 2023 and 2024 shows that the sector remains committed to responsible use in the face of these challenges. TTF3 will look to address impact of these challenges and create resilience for the future; it will also look to revise the PHU category to engage more producers with resources to identify and address barriers to reduction in usage. These resources can be shared across the whole sector and cross-sector as appropriate.

Across the sector, total pig numbers have risen from 4.66 million in 2023 to 4.72 million in 2024, despite a drop in sow numbers to 327,000 in 2024 (source AHDB Pork). The cost of production has been fairly stable from 2023 (195p/kg in Q4) into 2024 (197p/kg in Q4). However, with pig prices falling from their historic highs in 2023, margins for 2024 have been lower, dropping from £19 per head at the end of 2023 to £10 at the end of 2024. (Source AHDB Pork). Feed prices make up around 60-65% of cost of production, and volatility in this market has resulted in small changes to the overall cost of production. Fuel prices and interest rates have also been significant factors in 2024.

Pig Sector Progress Against Targets

✔ = in progress ✔✔ = well advanced ✔✔✔ = achieved

Pig Sector Targets			
Measurement Metric	**Target**	**2023 status**	**Progress**
Persistently High Users (PHUs)	**Introduce a programme in 2021 supporting PHUs to reduce use**	Quality Meat Scotland (QMS) has introduced a standard in line with Red Tractor standards that requires Persistently High Users (as defined and reviewed by the Pig Health and Welfare Council - PHWC) to develop an antibiotic reduction plan in conjunction with their vet using the PHWC template. This should be reviewed quarterly and must indicate progress made. For Red Tractor, PHUs was at 99% compliance. In 2024 Red Tractor had 2,297 members. Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB) continues to notify producers in the upper 5-10% usage range that they are close to being identified as a PHU in the eMB as an early warning system. The PHWC continues to review the definition of PHU. No changes were made in 2024, but a future revision is planned.	✓✓✓
Pig Health metrics	**Monitor effects of reduced antibiotic use annually**	The PHWC Pig Health subgroup, meets regularly to discuss pig health and makes use of any available data to inform the discussion and establish whether relevant activity is required. Discussions between the subgroups of the PHWC are frequent at the PHWC Council meetings. The Wholesome Pigs Scotland (WPS) scheme continues to operate providing producers and their vets with health information on pigs slaughtered in Scotland. No parallel scheme is in place in England after the loss of British Pig Health Scheme (BPHS) at the end of 2022 although the potential to use Collection and Communication of Inspection Results (CCIR) data collected by Food Standards Agency (FSA) as a broad indicator of health trends is under discussion.	✓✓
Plan for weaner management	**Identify/launch best-practice weaner management before 2022**	Communication with NPA, AHDB and PVS on the Rapid Evidence Assessment and best practice for weaner management has continued through 2024. This includes evaluating available data on how the sector is managing weaner health following the withdrawal of zinc oxide in 2024.	✓✓

Pig Sector Targets			
Measurement Metric	**Target**	**2023 status**	**Progress**
Shift from in-feed medication	**Ensure Government post-Brexit plans support switch to in-water**	This data is collected by the VMD and published in the VARSS report annually. Delivery of antibiotics via water can provide a more targeted method of administration. This can be by targeting smaller, more specific groups of pigs; through shorter treatment course duration and by a better intake of medication over feed delivery at a time where feed intakes may be reduced by illness. The proportion of medication delivered in-feed has remained stable between 2023 and 2024 as has the proportion delivered in-water. The overall trend since 2017 has been a reduction in in-feed delivery and a move towards a greater amount administered via water. As part of the Animal Health and Welfare Pathway (AHWP) the Government provided financial support for producers in England through the Equipment and Technology Grants to support the improvement of pig health and welfare. This included equipment to facilitate in-water medication. PHWC would support the inclusion of financial support for water system infrastructure in future rounds of Equipment and Technology Grant funding.	✓✓
e-Medicine Book (eMB) data	**Maintain/increase on-time submission of data to eMB annually**	Timely submission of eMB data continues and has improved on the 2023 figure, with 91% on time. AHDB, QMS and other stakeholder groups remind producers ahead of the submission dates for antibiotic usage data. For Red Tractor, eMB hub was at 99% compliance.	✓✓✓
Medicines training uptake	**Review gaps and increase opportunities for uptake, baseline 2020**	QMS has a standard which recommends that there is a named person responsible for medicines on farm, who is trained and revised every two years. Compliance is high for the Red Tractor standard which requires at least one team member on each unit to have undertaken approved training in the responsible use of medicines, with 99% of Red Tractor pig farms meeting the standard at audit. This figure remains unchanged from 2022. Red Tractor has approved 22 pig-specific responsible use of medicines courses.	✓✓✓

Pig Sector Indicators of Progress

✔ = in progress ✔✔ = well advanced ✔✔✔ = achieved

Pig Sector Indicators of Progress		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Progress
Antibiotic use (from eMB)	**30% reduction in total use by 2024, baseline 2020**	Antibiotic usage was 105 mg/ PCU in 2020.	The 2021 eMB data was published in June 2022. Antibiotic usage was 87mg/PCU in 2021. Antibiotic usage in the pig sector has reduced by 17% from the 2020 baseline. This equates to an overall reduction of 69% since 2015.	The 2022 eMB data was published by AHDB in June 2023. Antibiotic usage was 72mg/ PCU in 2022. Antibiotic usage in the pig sector has reduced by 17% from 2021. This equates to an overall reduction of 74% since 2015.	Antibiotic usage was 84.8 mg/ PCU in 2023. This figure is 18% higher than in 2022 but lower than the 2021 figure of 87.2 mg/ PCU. There has been an overall reduction of 69% since 2015.	2024 figure: 86.2mg/PCU 2020 baseline figure: 105mg/PCU There has been an 18% reduction in usage over duration of TTF2. This figure is 1.6% higher than in 2023 - little change considering the removal of ZnO from weaner diets and continued pressure from Swine dysentery and PRRSv amongst other health challenges. This equates to a 69% reduction overall since 2015.	✓✓

Pig Sector Indicators of Progress		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Progress
Highest priority antibiotic use (from eMB)	**Use equal to or lower than 2019 baselines**	0.05 mg/PCU No colistin use was reported in pigs 2020.	2021 figures: 0.03mg/ PCU - a slight decrease from recorded use in 2020 (0.05mg/ PCU). No Colistin use was reported in pigs in 2021.	The 2022 eMB data showed use of highest priority critically important antibiotics remains very low at 0.01 mg/ PCU. No Colistin use was reported in pigs in 2022.	The 2023 eMB data shows use of highest priority critically important antibiotics has further reduced to 0.007 mg/ PCU. No Colistin use was reported in pigs in 2023.	2024 figure: 0.009mg/ PCU (2020 baseline figure: 0.05mg/ PCU). HP-CIA use decreased rapidly and has remained well below 0.05mg/PCU for duration of TTF2. No colistin use reported between 2020 and 2024 inclusive.	✓✓✓
Antimicrobial resistance surveillance	**Monitor current data; aim for reduction on 2020 baselines**	Antibiotic resistance continues to be monitored by the VMD and reported annually in the VARSS report. PHWC works with the VMD if concerns arise from this to ensure any action is based on evidence. Clinical surveillance continues and helps the PHWC to identify emerging issues, although the group is mindful that it is not representative data.				Antibiotic resistance continues to be monitored by the VMD and reported annually in the VARSS report. Data from 2024 VARSS report show that, from healthy pigs at slaughter (harmonised monitoring): • 42% Pig derived E coli were fully susceptible to the panel of antibiotics tested. This is highest figure recorded to date. • Proportion of susceptible E coli has approximately doubled since 2014/2015 data	✓✓

Pig Sector Indicators of Progress		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Progress
						• Proportion of multi-drug-resistant E coli at the lowest level recorded to date • HP CIA resistance in both E coli and Salmonella isolates either low or not detected Surveillance data from carcases and diagnostic samples submitted to APHAshowed: The proportion of Salmonella isolates from pigs that are fully susceptible to the antibiotic panel tested has increased year on year since 2014.	

Salmon Sector

Overview

In 2024, the Scottish salmon farming sector continued to focus on the responsible use of antibiotics, balancing the need to protect fish health and welfare with a global aim to reduce use. The sector continues to successfully achieve all its targets, with activity against those targets, data collation and overall antibiotic stewardship, driven forward through the Salmon Scotland Prescribing Vets group (SSPV).

Salmon farmers recorded a decrease in the volume of antibiotic used, with use the second lowest since sector figures were first collated and published in 2017; 8.1 mg/kg versus the target of 5 mg/kg. Treatments are still limited to a relatively small number of farms each year, with 10.6% of freshwater farms and 9.0% of marine farms undertaking an antibiotic treatment in 2024.

Use of both oxytetracycline and florfenicol decreased in 2024. Similar to previous years, there was no use of oxolinic acid, which is defined as a higher priority antibiotic.

Salmon are farmed in the wild lochs around Scotland's coastline. They are sensitive to environmental changes, which can have direct impacts on the fish, but which more often impact the development and proliferation of some of the harmful organisms that can impact fish health and welfare.

Since 2022, the sector has experienced challenging conditions in the marine environment where salmon are farmed, with increased water temperatures and oceanic changes further afield. Changes in our marine environment can impact fish health which in turn, may, in some circumstances, lead to a requirement for treatment intervention.

The salmon farming sector has made significant investment in new technological developments and innovation to support fish health management (e.g. increased environmental monitoring and new health interventions). For example, a recent report demonstrates nearly £1bn investment in fish health and welfare since 2018. This has led to significant improvements in fish health and survival in 2024, which is reflected in antibiotic use.

Scottish salmon farmers are proud of the progress made in 2024 and will remain vigilant by continuing to monitor their fish and the farming environment on a daily basis, promptly reacting wherever necessary and possible.

The Scottish salmon farming sector remains strongly committed to the RUMA Targets Task Force initiative. It is unique and is the only truly cross sector initiative for the UK farmed animal sector, embracing both terrestrial and aquatic livestock farming systems. In this second cycle of targets, sectors have doubled down on their efforts and achievements made during TTF1, to make further advancements in antibiotic stewardship. As a grouping of cross sector experts, RUMA and the Targets Task Force have also provided a strong, public voice for UK farmers.

Salmon Sector Progress Against Targets

✔ = in progress ✔✔ = well advanced ✔✔✔ = achieved

Salmon Targets			
Measurement Metric	**Target**	**2024 status**	**Progress**
Highest priority antibiotic use	**Only prescribed as last resort after sensitivity testing**	No HP CIAs used in 2024. Oxolinic Acid was reclassified as a HP CIA in January 2020. Prior to this time very low quantities were occasionally used to treat specific, targeted issues. Since January 2020, the sector has phased out its use.	✓✓✓
Vaccination of Atlantic salmon	**All Atlantic salmon vaccinated before seawater phase**	100% of fish vaccinated against key bacterial and viral health challenges.	✓✓✓
Use of autogenous vaccines	**To be developed in absence of licensed vaccines**	Autogenous vaccines developed where appropriate.	✓✓✓
Prescribing Vets' group input	**Quarterly meetings, antibiotic stewardship a standard item**	Quarterly meetings of the Salmon Scotland Prescribing Vets (SSPV) group held alongside adhoc meetings as required.	✓✓✓
Compliance with Code of Good Practice	**All producers compliant with Code of Good Practice**	100% of salmon produced to the standards of the Code of Good Practice.	✓✓✓
Collection/ collation of data	**100% collection and reporting of antibiotic use**	Data collated from all prescribing veterinary practices, covering 100% of the salmon farmed in Scotland.	✓✓✓

Salmon Sector Indicators of Progress

✔ = in progress ✔✔ = well advanced ✔✔✔ = achieved

Salmon Indicators of Progress		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Progress
Antibiotic use (from usage data)	**Aim for maximum 5 mg/kg annually**	2020 usage = 29.3mg/kg	2021 usage = 43.1mg/kg	2022 usage = 18.6 mg/kg	24.8 mg/kg *This is an updated figure based on actual production data, published after the time of the initial report.	2024 usage = 8.1 mg/kg The TTF Indicator of Progress is highly ambitious. Fish veterinarians will continue to focus on responsible use of antibiotics, balancing the health and welfare needs of the fish against an overall desire to reduce use and to meet this ambitious level.	✓✓
Metric for % fish treated	**Develop new metric to indicate the % of fish treated annually**	In 2020 the Prescribing Vets Group established a new metric that reports the percentage of active farms that were treated with antibiotic in 2020. This metric considers the freshwater and marine production phases separately. In 2020 6.9% of freshwater farms and 4.4% of marine farms were treated with antibiotics.	In 2021, 8.5% of freshwater farms and 4.9% of marine farms were treated with antibiotics.	In 2022, only 1.5% of freshwater farms and 8.7% of marine farms were treated with antibiotics.	In 2023, 7.5% of freshwater farms and 9.8% of marine farms were treated with antibiotics.	In 2024, 10.6% of freshwater farms and 9.0% of marine farms were treated with antibiotics. This demonstrates that use was restricted to a small number of farms, where antibiotics were responsibly prescribed in response to a specific health issue.	✓✓✓

Trout Sector

Overview

Antibiotic use decreased by 26% (1.8 mg/kg) between 2023 and 2024 from 6.9 mg/kg to 5.1 mg/kg. This is the lowest figure seen since data was first published in 2017. The only HP-CIA used in trout is the quinolone oxolinic acid, and its use decreased by 26% from 1.8 mg/kg in 2023 to 1.5 mg/kg in 2024. This is also the lowest figure recorded and represents a reduction of 78% since 2017.

The industry remains committed to decreasing usage and there is no prophylactic usage of antibacterials. The trout sector is still undergoing changes with a move towards larger fish production. Through the production cycle this means that farms buy fewer fry to grow on, stocking densities are then lower and fewer problems are seen.

The extreme weather conditions remain a concern and can cause higher water temperatures which, at times, can prove challenging for some farms. The sector is always looking at ways of mitigating issues caused by extreme weather.

Availably of vaccines in 2024 was a challenge; this puts stock at a higher risk of diseases challenges and in some circumstances, an increased use of antibiotics.

AMR Surveillance

On the AMR surveillance the sector now has over 200 bug samples that have been submitted. This has been a great success and will allow The Centre For Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS) to collect data on the bug type and distribution across the UK, checking for any resistance to antibiotics. The bugs will be kept in cryo for future work on vaccines. It is intended to keep this work going and The British Trout Association (BTA) is very grateful for the support from CEFAS and VMD.

Trout Sector Progress Against Targets

✔ = in progress ✔✔ = well advanced ✔✔✔ = achieved

Trout Sector Targets			
Measurement Metric	**Target**	**2024 status**	**Progress**
Stewardship of antibiotics	**No preventative use; no highest priority antibiotics used routinely; pathogen surveillance through AMR surveillance initiative.**	This has proved successful, but can only go so far as treatment cannot be withheld on welfare grounds.	✓✓✓
Vaccine uptake	**Vaccination in freshwater phase to be increased, baseline 2020.**	Uptake of vaccines continues to be high, held back only by supply challenges during 2024.	✓✓
Promotion of best practice	**All members compliant with quality standards.**	The industry continues to follow best practice.	✓✓✓

Trout Sector Indicators of Progress

✔ = in progress ✔✔ = well advanced ✔✔✔ = achieved

Trout Sector Indicators of Progress		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Progress
Antibiotic use (from usage data)	**Maintain usage below 20 mg/kg**	13.9mg/kg	5.9mg/kg	44.1 mg/kg	6.9 mg/kg	5.1 mg/kg	✓✓
Metric for % fish treated	**Develop a new metric to indicate the % of fish treated annually**	In progress		In development. Treatment at hatcheries is common. Vaccines are not available.	In development. Treatment at hatcheries is common. Vaccines are not available.	In development. Treatment at hatcheries is common. Vaccines are not available.	✓

Gamebird Sector

Overview

Feed compounded with antibiotics fell approximately 25% in 2024 (although this was offset by an increase in soluble use and a small increase in overall use of 5%). However, there has been a sustained shift across the sector towards more use of penicillins in the last eight years (up by 33% in real terms) while overall antibiotic used has fallen by 48% in the same period, indicating a significant shift away from the more important antibiotic groups. Treatment with penicillins does require a much greater amount of active ingredient than some other antibiotic groups, so achieving this against the backdrop of a 48% overall reduction represents sustained progress (penicillins fall into the lowest priority group of antibiotics).

Spring and summer 2024 were some of the wettest on record and this had far-reaching consequences. Waterlogged ground in spring led to spiralling worm burdens in breeding stock that proved hard to control. This led to reduced vitality among breeding birds with consequential reduction in egg and chick quality. Coupled with compromised egg hygiene for floor-based laying systems in particular, overall chick quality was noticeably poorer than usual. In addition to early life infections requiring treatment, this fall in chick quality affects the bird's resilience throughout the growth cycle, increasing the need for medical intervention throughout rear. Wet weather also predisposes the birds towards gut parasite issues as it allows bacteria, protozoa and coccidia to thrive, all of which contribute further to antibiotic use if welfare is to be maintained.

Throughout the TTF2 cycle the sector has seen volatility in antibiotic use. However, this has been mirrored to a certain extent by volatility in production levels (mainly due to Covid-19 and Avian Influenza). Consequently, the sector has not met the targets set for the TTF2 period on overall antibiotic use. There has been a meaningful reduction in the use of compounded in-feed antibiotics, encouraged by a growing focus on responsible prescribing practices by specialist game bird vets and bird management such as a health risk assessment matrix for release pens. The sector remains committed to ensuring this approach to responsible prescribing is adopted across the sector.

The game sector has exceeded its target for total HP-CIA use by achieving a 19% reduction during the TTF2 period and as a percentage of total use has kept below 0.5% throughout the TTF2 cycle. The sector needs more support by way of scientific research and enforcement to meet the ambitious targets set for TTF2 in the short term. Progress resulting from improved infrastructure and production / release systems will be a much longer-term workstream.

Gamebird Sector Progress Against Targets

✔ = in progress ✔✔ = well advanced ✔✔✔ = achieved

Gamebird Sector Targets			
Measurement Metric	**Target**	**2024 status**	**Progress**
Discussion with vets	**Every rearer to calculate use and discuss with their vet**	This becoming more widespread throughout the sector.	✓✓
Improve husbandry	**Monitor uptake of new British Game Alliance Game Farm Audits**	Trusted Game has become the leading scheme for the game sector encompassing shoots and game rearers and stakeholder engagement continues to grow.	✓
Increase education	**Enhance existing learning tools**	BVPA training, Agricultural Industries Confederation (AIC) modules and the GFA pen scoring matrix are all becoming more deeply embedded across the sector.	✓✓
Medicated feed stewardship	**Work with Game Feed Trade Association to steward sales (GFTA)**	Collaboration with the Agricultural Industries Confederation AIC and the GFTA has continued to develop resulting in successful data collection for AB use in addition to other datasets that are of benefit to the sector in raising standards.	✓✓
Monitor welfare effects	**Ensure antibiotic reductions are safe and sustainable**	We are unaware of any negative impacts on bird welfare but lack the resources to conduct a thorough scientific assessment of this on an ongoing basis.	✓
Research into damaging diseases	**Promote research into ways to reduce disease pressures**	Funding is the principal barrier to progress and work is ongoing to secure resources to instigate the vital research necessary to bring about sustained reductions in disease pressures.	✓

Gamebird Sector Indicators of Progress

✔ = in progress ✔✔ = well advanced ✔✔✔ = achieved

Gamebird Indicators of Progress		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Progress
Antibiotic Use (from usage data)	**Reduce use by 40%, baseline 2019 of 10.4 tonnes**	2020 use: 6.0 tonnes (42% reduction from 2019 baseline)	2021 use: 9.0 tonnes in line with the 40% reduction by 2024, a 10%* reduction was made when compared to 2019. *excluding 2020 figures due to pandemic	2022 use: 6.7 tonnes (N.B. this figures was incorrectly printed in TTF last year as 6.4 instead of 6.7) against TTF2 target of 6.24 tonnes (but with reduced number of birds reared). *Please note this statistic was printed incorrectly in the TTF last year	9.9 tonnes, a 47% increase. The increase was largely offset by a significant increase in the number of birds reared (with some data suggesting numbers were higher than pre Covid/AI). In addition, one consequence of the 2022 AI related shortage was a significant increase in the value of game birds. This resulted in a far more conservative approach to disease management, which combined with poor weather during the releasing season increased the amount of antibiotic used per bird.	2024 use: 10.3 tonnes. Overall use has flatlined, but the sector has moved away from higher priority AB to more general penicillins.	✓✓
Highest priority antibiotic use (from usage data)	**Reduce use by 19% to 47kg, baseline 2019 of 58 kg**	2020 use: 22Kg (63% reduction from 2019 baseline)	2021 showed a 48% reduction compared to base year of 2019.	2022: HP-CIA use in the sector fell by 12% to 20kg in 2022 (but with 17% less birds reared).	2023: 27.7Kg which is a 19% increase on 2022. This represents a reduced proportion of overall antibiotic used and is a smaller increase than in the number of birds reared compared to 2022. It still equates to a 57% reduction since 2016.	2024: 45.1Kg - the target has been exceeded by 2.7% at the end of the TTF2 cycle with a 19% reduction and a total reduction across the whole TTF period of 30%.	✓✓✓

Laying Hens Sector

Overview

In 2024, data collected by the British Egg Industry Council (BEIC) represented around 90% of the laying hen industry. The antibiotic use of the sector in 2024 was 0.28% bird days treated in 2024, which continues to be below the target of 1% bird days treated. During 2024, the national flock expanded by over 2 million birds once again, so this result represents a significant achievement. Since 2016, the sector has reduced its antibiotic usage in bird days treated by 58%. The industry also remains below its HP-CIA usage target of 0.05% bird days. During 2024, a HP-CIA was used for the first time since 2016 in a breeder laying flock, and not for birds producing eggs for the food chain. This related to a single course of treatment. BEIC only permits the use of fluoroquinolone in the treatment of significant cases of disease, where other treatments have failed to achieve the required outcome and where the case has been reviewed and a derogation for treatment issued.

The industry trend towards "cage free" production continues. There remains increased interest in using white birds which have different characteristics and management requirements to brown birds. The sector continues to be confident that it will remain below its 1% bird days treated target and 0.05% bird days for HP-CIA's. The Lion Code of practice Version 8 focuses on the importance of biosecurity and hygiene, essential to mitigate risk across a range of issues, particularly as the move to free range flocks continues. Furthermore, training for all staff via the Lion Training Passport is mandatory and the training focuses on prudent use of antibiotics. Moreover, version 8 of the Lion Code, released in June 2023, demands enhanced veterinary supervision of sites with a strong focus on identifying heavy users of antibiotics and building in preventative programmes.

The egg laying sector is confident that it can continue to deliver on its targets, noting that as the sector moves towards greater outdoor production the risk of issues requiring veterinary intervention increases. At the start of 2022 around 73% of birds were kept outside, moving to 76% by the end of 2024. The industry is also extending the life cycle of each flock as birds remain productive for longer. This will also increase risks moving forward.

Finally, the increased interest in white birds will continue and the sector will need to closely monitor whether this has an impact on its ability to meet targets as it learns more.

Laying Hens Sector Indicators of Progress

✔ = in progress ✔✔ = well advanced ✔✔✔ = achieved

Laying Hens Indicators of Progress		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Progress
Antibiotic use (usage data)	**Maintain bird days treated below 1%**	The antibiotic usage data from members of the BEIC Lion Scheme continues to remain below the 1% bird days.			The sector remains below target by 22% (reduction from 2022 of 6.8%)	The sector is significantly below target at 0.28% bird days treated in 2024.	✔✔✔
HP-CIA use (usage data)	**Fluoroquinolone days medicated remains below 0.05%**	No HP-CIAs were used.				The sector is significantly below target at 0.007% days medicated in 2024.	✔✔✔

Poultry Meat Sector

Overview

BPC member businesses play a crucial role in ensuring our national food security. With a responsibility to feed the nation and a duty of care to protect bird health and wellbeing, members of the BPC Antibiotic Stewardship have reduced their total antibiotic use by 83.22% since 2012.

Antibiotic use for BPC members in both broilers and turkeys remains below TTF targets: broiler chickens are at 11.33 mg/PCU (under the 25 mg/PCU sector-specific target) and turkeys are 40 mg/PCU (under 50 mg/PCU). Overall use of all classes of antibiotics was down in 2024 and use of CIAs (including Fluoroquinolones, Macrolides and Polymyxins) has decreased by 99.34% since 2012. These are prescribed as a last resort only after other treatments have been considered.

The BPC Antibiotic Stewardship is at the core of producers' commitment to progress. It has played a crucial part in driving positive change. Together, we monitor data and prioritise transparency to ensure the sustainable and responsible use of antibiotics, safeguarding their efficacy so we can continue producing food people trust and value.

The below target results are testament to the leadership and collaboration of BPC Antibiotic Stewardship members. The group meets several times a year to discuss challenges, shared learnings and experience, as well as to support appropriate research into AMR.

An outbreak of Histomonas meleagridis (Blackhead Disease) in turkeys explains a small increase in use. Antibiotics were prescribed by vets to manage bird health and welfare. Despite this, overall use continues to fall. HP-CIAs are still last-resort treatments following a detailed clinical investigation.

The BPC Antibiotic Stewardship continues to demonstrate that responsible antibiotic use is a deliberate, health-led choice. Driven by continuous improvement, our industry's commitment to transparency is safeguarding our antibiotics and strengthening the foundations of UK food security.

Much of the poultry meat industry's progress in reducing antibiotic use was achieved prior to the O'Neill Report, driven by the sector's own initiative. Since the introduction of the RUMA TTF and working with colleagues at RUMA Agriculture, the British poultry meat sector continues to minimise antibiotic use year on-year.

Poultry Meat Sector Indicators of Progress

✔ = in progress ✔✔ = well advanced ✔✔✔ = achieved

Poultry Meat Indicators of Progress		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Progress
Antibiotic use (usage data)	**Use remains < 25mg/ kg PCU in broiler production; reviewed 2021**	16.3 mg/kg PCU	13.66 mg/kg PCU	14.05 mg/kg/ PCU	13.54 mg/ kg/PCU	11.33 mg/ pcu	✓✓✓
	Use remains < 50mg/ kg PCU in turkey production; reviewed 2021	25.7 mg/kg PCU	42.55mg/kg PCU	41.07mg/kg PCU	33.62 mg/ kg/PCU	40 mg/pcu	✓✓✓

Appendices

The RUMA Targets Task Force 2:

Chair of the RUMA TTF - Cat McLaughlin

Beef	**Mark Jelly** – Beef Farmer **Nicky Bowden / Rachel Hayton** – Vet
Dairy	**Karen Halton** - Dairy Farmer **Nicky Bowden / Rachel Hayton** – Vet
Calves	**Kathryn Hart** – Vet
Sheep	**Kevin Harrison** – Sheep Farmer **Fiona Lovatt** – Vet
Pigs	**Richard Lister** – Pig Farmer **Alex Thomsett** – Vet
Salmon	**Iain Berrill** - SSPO
Trout	**Oliver Robinson** – BTA **Peter Scott** – Vet
Gamebirds	**Paul Jeavons** – Game Farmer **Dan King** – Vet
Laying hens	**Ian Lowery** – Vet
Poultry Meat	**Daniel Parker** – Vet

Observers:

Gwyn Jones	Past Chair
Anna Judson	BVA
Fraser Broadfoot	VMD
Donal Murphy	NOAH
Georgina McDowell	Red Tractor
Mandy Nevel	AHDB

RUMA Chairing and Organisation:

Catherine McLaughlin	Chair
Chris Lloyd	Secretary General
Bryan Lovegrove	Deputy Chair
Tim Brigstocke	RUMA Treasurer
Mary Bawn	Communications Manager

Abbreviations & glossary

AHDA	Animal Health Distributors' Association
AHDB	The Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB) is a statutory levy board, funded by farmers, growers and others in the supply chain to help the industry succeed in a rapidly changing world.
AHWP	Animal Health and Welfare Pathway
AIC	Agricultural Industries Confederation
AMAST	AMr in Agrifood Systems Transdisciplinary Network
AMR	Antimicrobial Resistance
AMU	Antimicrobial Use
Antibiotic	A medicine specifically used to prevent and treat bacterial infections. This report is primarily focused on the use of antibiotics, as a subset of wider antimicrobials
Antimicrobial	A product which kills or slows the spread of a range of microorganisms including bacteria, viruses, protozoa, and fungi. Antibiotics are antimicrobials.
APHA	Animal and Plant Health Agency, formerly AHVLA
AHWBE	Animal Health and Welfare Board England
BCMS	British Cattle Movement Service
BCVA	British Cattle Veterinary Association
BEIC	British Egg Industry Council
BGA	British Game Assurance
BMPA	British Meat Processors' Association
BPC	British Poultry Council
BTA	British Trout Association
BVPA	British Veterinary Poultry Association
BVA	British Veterinary Association
BVD	Bovine Viral Diarrhoea
Cefas	Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science
CHAWG	Cattle Health and Welfare Group of Great Britain
CoGP	Code of Good Practice for Scottish Finfish Aquaculture
CTS	Cattle Tracing System
CVO	Chief Veterinary Officer
Dairy UK	The trade association for the British dairy supply chain
Defra	The UK Government's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

DCDVet	Defined Course Dose for animals, the assumed average dose per kg animal per species per treatment
DDDVet	Defined Daily Dose for animals, the assumed average dose per kg animal per species per day
DMCP	Dairy Mastitis Control Plan
DSC	Disease Surveillance Centres
EBV	Estimated Breeding Value
EFSA	European Food Safety Authority
eMB-Pigs	The electronic Medicine Book, developed by AHDB to electronically collate anti-biotic usage data from the UK pig sector
EMA	European Medicines Agency EMA
EMS	Extra Mural Studies
AMEG	European Medicines Agency's Antimicrobial Expert Group
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
FAVS	Farm Association of Veterinary Students
FAWL	Farm Assured Welsh Livestock
FSA	Food Standards Agency
FSS	Food Standards Scotland
FUW	Farmers Union of Wales
FVC	Farm Vet Champions, a collaborative antimicrobial stewardship scheme led by RCVS Knowledge
FVS	Fish Veterinary Society
GFA	Game Farmers' Association
HCC	Hybu Cig Cymru, responsible for the development, promotion and marketing of Welsh red meat
HPAI	Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza
HP-CIA	Highest Priority Critically Important Antibiotic (for human medical purposes), as defined by the European Medicines Agency (category B)
Hybu Cig Cymru	Meat Promotion Wales (HCC) is the industry-led organisation responsible for the development, promotion and marketing of Welsh red meat.
IBR	Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis
iSAGE	Innovation for Sustainable Sheep and Goat Production in Europe
ISG	Independent Scientific Group (RUMA)
MA	Marketing Authorisation
Medicine Hub (MH)	The centralised database for medicine use in UK ruminants, developed by AHDB

Metaphylaxis	The treatment of a group of animals after the diagnosis of infection and/or clinical disease in part of the group, with the aim of preventing the spread of infectious disease to animals in close contact and at considerable risk and which may already be (sub-clinically) infected or incubating the disease. Also called Control treatment
mg/kg PCU and mg/kg	Milligrams per PCU, the unit of measurement developed by the EMA to monitor antibiotic use and sales across Europe, which has also been adopted by the UK in its national reports although convention in 2017 was to refer to mg per kg for simplicity
NFU	National Farmers' Union (England and Wales)
NFU Cymru	The National Farmers' Union (Wales)
NFUS	National Farmers' Union of Scotland
NIBL FQAS	Northern Ireland Beef and Lamb Farm Quality Assurance Scheme
NPA	National Pig Association
NSA	National Sheep Association
PCU	Population Correction Unit, which is used to help measure antibiotic use. PCU takes into account the animal population as well as the estimated weight of each particular animal at the time of treatment with antibiotics
PCV2	Porcine Circovirus Type 2 viruses
PCVAD	Porcine Circovirus Associated Disease
PHU	Persistently High Use/Users (of antibiotics)
PHWC	Pig Health and Welfare Council
PI	Persistently Infected (with BVD)
Prophylaxis	The treatment of an animal or a group of animals, before clinical signs of infectious disease, in order to prevent the occurrence of disease or infection. Also called Preventative treatment.
PRRS	Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome Virus, also known as Blue Ear Disease
PVS	Pig Veterinary Society
QMS	Quality Meat Scotland, the levy board representing the red meat industry in Scotland
RABDF	Royal Association of British Dairy Farmers
RCVS	Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons
REA	Rapid Evidence Assessment
Red Tractor (RT)	A food assurance scheme which covers production standards on food safety, hygiene, animal health, welfare and environment
RMDP	Red Meat Development Programme in Wales
RTFS	Rainbow Trout Fry Syndrome
RUMA	Responsible Use of Medicines in Agriculture

SAAG	Sheep Antibiotic Guardian Group
SHAWG	Sheep Health and Welfare Group
SPVS	Society of Practising Veterinary Surgeons
SSPCA	Scottish Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
SSPO	Scottish Salmon Producers' Organisation
SSPV	Salmon Scotland Prescribing Vets
SVA	Sheep Veterinary Association
Therapeutic treatment	The curative treatment of a sick animal or group of animals following the diagnosis of infection and/or clinical disease in those animals.
Trusted Game	Gamebird Health and Welfare Scheme
TTF	Targets Task Force group, established to reduce antibiotic use in food producing animals
TTF1	The first Targets Task Force and the period their targets cover (2017-2020)
TTF2	The second Targets Task Force and the period their targets cover (2021-2024)
VARSS	Veterinary Antimicrobial Resistance and Sales Surveillance, a collection of reports from the VMD providing the details of UK veterinary antibiotic resistance & sales surveillance
VMD	Veterinary Medicines Directorate
VPC	Veterinary Products Committee
WHO	World Health Organisation
WLBP	Welsh Lamb and Beef Producers Ltd
WPS	Wholesome Pigs Scotland

RESPONSIBLE USE OF MEDICINES IN AGRICULTURE ALLIANCE

RUMA

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