

What is RUMA?

RUMA was established in November 1997 to promote the highest standards of food safety, animal health and animal welfare in the British livestock industry.

It is a unique, independent non-profit group involving organisations that represent all stages of the food chain from 'farm to fork'. This reflects the importance of traceability, transparency and accountability at all stages in the chain: from primary food production, through processing, manufacturing and retailing to the final consumer. Its membership includes organisations representing interests in agriculture, veterinary practice, animal medicines industry, farm assurance, training, retailers, consumers and animal welfare interests.

RUMA aims to produce a co-ordinated and integrated approach to best practice in animal medicine use. It has an established communications network with government departments and many non-governmental organisations.

What are RUMA's aims?

The main aims of RUMA are to:-

- (a) Identify issues of scientific and public concern in the areas of public health, animal health, animal welfare and the environment which relate to animal medicine use.
- (b) Provide an informed consensus view on identified issues, developed by discussion and consultation.
- (c) Establish and communicate guidelines which describe "best practice" in the use of animal medicines.
- (d) Advise industry on the implementation of "best practice", especially in the development of codes of practice and assurance schemes.
- (e) Communicate and consult on:
 - (i) The effective use of animal medicines.
 - (ii) The regulation of livestock production and use of animal medicines.
- (f) Promote the appropriate use of authorised medicines for disease prevention and control.
- (g) Liaise with National Authorities, including DEFRA, Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) and Food Standards Agency (FSA).
- (h) Identify practical strategies to sustain the responsible use of medicines.



How does RUMA achieve its aims?

Chiefly through the publication of RUMA Guidelines for the responsible use of medicines for all the major food producing species such as dairy and beef cattle, sheep, pigs, poultry and fish. These are all working documents and developed from the contributions from member organisations. Available free of charge from the RUMA website, they are continually reviewed in the light of ongoing developments.

RUMA is made up of the following organisations:

- Agricultural Industries Confederation (AIC)
- Animal Health Distributors Association (AHDA)
- Animal Medicines Training Regulatory Authority (AMTRA)
- BPEX/ EBLEX
- British Egg Industry Council (BEIC)
- British Poultry Council (BPC)
- British Retail Consortium (BRC)
- British Veterinary Association (BVA)
- City & Guilds
- Dairy UK
- DairyCo
- Game Farmers' Association (GFA)
- Linking Environment and Farming (LEAF)
- National Beef Association (NBA)
- National Farmers' Union (NFU)
- National Office of Animal Health (NOAH)
- National Pig Association (NPA)
- National Sheep Association (NSA)
- NFU Scotland (NFUS)
- Red Tractor Assurance
- Royal Association of British Dairy Farmers (RABDF)
- Royal Pharmaceutical Society
- Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA)

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