



## **RUMA Strategy for the period 2019 – 2024**

### **RUMA Strategy**

Over the next five years, the RUMA Board and Officeholders will deliver activities to address the following strategic objectives. The strategy and detailed activities to deliver it will be reviewed annually and reflected in the annual Business Plan.

Strategic Objective 1: Champion the responsible use of animal medicines in UK livestock

Strategic Objective 2: Maintain a specific focus on AMR and the responsible use of antibiotics in UK livestock coordinating activities which contribute to the UK 5 Year AMR Strategy

### **Strategic Objective 1**

- Monitor media and government information sources relating to responsible use of medicines to be aware of and communicate onwards relevant challenges or opportunities for the UK livestock sector
- Keep a watching brief on issues of resistance to animal medicines (i.e. anthelmintics, antibiotics, antivirals and other control products) and its potential to impact on UK livestock productivity. To include any greater scrutiny on their relevance to human health or the environment and possible regulation
- Ensure accurate information is available and promoted to explain the industry position on the use of medicines, and where necessary respond to misinformation
- Contribute to discussions relating to the future government animal health pathways – priorities, design, and framework
- Through the Alliance, monitor and facilitate the sharing of information relating to implications for access to and responsible use of medicines following Brexit, i.e. regulation changes, product availability and licensing, and veterinary capacity
- To share its experience from the livestock sector in the potential establishment of a standalone sister organisation to represent the responsible use of medicines in companion animals

- Utilise RUMA's Independent Scientific Group to identify issues and provide guidance to generate public positions or inform its contact with regulators, government or other interested organisations providing leadership for the livestock sector
- Maintain an up-to-date source of guidelines which explain the principles of responsible use of medicines in livestock

## **Strategic Objective 2**

- Provide government with a point of contact for the livestock industry's implementation of the UK Government's Vision on AMR and next 5-year Strategy
- Contribute to future One Health discussions relating to 'diagnostics' which could be relevant to the livestock sector
- Review the ToR of the current TTF group. There remains a need to continue to review, promote and challenge sector efforts to deliver against the stated TTF targets, including supporting and communicating with the respective sector AMR sub groups and organisations to ensure the targets are delivered by 2020
- Support and encourage the livestock sectors to collect data which can be used to demonstrate the use of antibiotics and progress towards the TTF targets. Inform internal and external stakeholder discussions when responsible use limits are reached and usage figures potentially plateau
- Facilitate the scoping, defining and delivering of the next goals for antimicrobial use, moving to a more holistic assessment of progress based on the delivery proactive health related management and considering whether antimicrobials other than antibiotics also need to be included.
- Communicate progress of all sectors towards the initial TTF targets, ensuring the industry's stakeholders have frequent updates on achievements as well as challenges and opportunities, with the aim of them 'sharing the journey'
- Be open to sharing RUMA's experience on AMR with interested international parties, as part of the governments positioning of UK livestock as having the best standards in the world
- Improve RUMA's knowledge concerning possible links of AMR in the environment
- Develop closer links with the Environment Agency and other relevant regulators to ensure they are informed on the TTF targets and progress. To also ensure an open dialogue with the EA as more information is gained on the role of AMR and antibiotic residues in the environment
- Maintain a dialogue and working relationship with the Food Standards Agency to ensure they are aware of the ongoing activity of the agricultural sectors and that the risk of AMR transmission via food is communicated with context
- Maintain a bank of public-facing AMR information (currently on [www.farmantibiotics.org](http://www.farmantibiotics.org)) to provide a source of evidence-based facts and figures.

*Please also see RUMA Vision and Responsibilities; RUMA Business Plan 2019*

**Responsible Use of Medicines in Agriculture (RUMA) Alliance  
December 2018**