

Red Tractor Farm Assurance Requirements 2018

This year has seen a number of new requirements introduced to farmers who are part of the Red Tractor farm assurance scheme.

Firstly, beef and sheep farmers now require an annual veterinary written review of the livestock health and performance information and at least an annual vet visit to the livestock. A template of this review can be provided from your practice prior to your meeting, this will help ensure you have collated all relevant data to be discussed with your vet.

As part of the annual health review process dairy, beef and sheep farms require a total antibiotic usage review. Your vet during the review will outline recommendations to help reduce antibiotic usage on farm where possible. The dairy antibiotic review requires additional farmer and vet discussion on antibiotic failures and selective dry cow therapy.

From June 2018 highest priority critically important antibiotics e.g. 3rd and 4th generation cephalosporins, colistin and fluoroquinolones must only be used as a last resort under veterinary direction. For these antibiotics to be dispensed on farm by a veterinarian, sampling and diagnostic testing will have to be performed to confirm that this class of antibiotics are required. A veterinary report on the case is required as a record for the use of critically important antibiotics on your farm.

A further recommendation to the beef, sheep and dairy producers is that at least one member of the farm staff has received training in the storage, handling and administration of medicines. This training can be performed through a specific medicine training course or training by your veterinary surgeon. A certificate of attendance/competency needs to be presented in your records for your farm assurance visit.

During your annual health review your vet will also discuss with you current industry initiatives in disease control e.g. BVD Free England, 'Stamp out lameness' and Action Johnes and how your farm can become involved in these national initiatives.

For more details on the red tractor farm assurance requirements visit assurance.redtractor.org.uk or speak to your vet and organise your annual health review.

Further information is also available from your local Westpoint Farm Vets practice. Please contact Will Gratwick at Westpoint Sevenoaks on 01959 564383, Tim Potter at Westpoint Horsham on 01306 628086 or Kathy Hume at Westpoint Ashford on 01306 628208.

Kathy Hume BVM BVS MRCVS

Practice Principal Westpoint Ashford

Originally from Ireland, Kathy graduated from the Nottingham Vet School in 2011 and joined Westpoint straight after in July 2011 to undertake an internship in farm animal practice with the RVC. She was initially based at our Horsham practice, but moved across to our Ashford practice in spring 2012, taking over as practice principal in 2017.

Kathy enjoys all aspects of farm animal practice, from working with the commercial farms to the smallholder clients. She has a particular interest in proactive health planning and specifically in mastitis control. Kathy is a DairyCo Mastitis Control Plan User and she uses this knowledge when working with our dairy farmers to monitor mastitis, recommend and implement changes to control mastitis on their farms.

Westpoint Farm Vets

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