



# Responsible Use of Antibiotics on Red Tractor Farms

## GUIDANCE FOR VETS

This document aims to highlight the role of the vet in assisting beef, lamb and dairy farmers in being compliant with Red Tractor standards.



## BEEF + LAMB

As of 1 June 2018 it is compulsory for all Red Tractor beef and lamb members to have a written annual livestock health and performance review undertaken by their vet.

### What's happening now?

For simplicity, two existing standards have been consolidated into the new standards which are printed on the right hand side of this page.

### What does this mean for farm vets?

Standards have been designed to be as simple and practical as possible, but there are some new requirements that Red Tractor members will have to comply with which involve vet participation.

Creating a written annual livestock health and performance review with the farm's vet is one of the main changes.

This review will cover a number of areas such as making recommendations on any key health or performance issues that are identified on farm.

Data outlining total antibiotic usage must be used as the basis for advice on how the farm can use antibiotics as responsibly as possible without compromising animal welfare. This information can be drawn from the data kept at the practice based on prescriptions/dispensing data, or the farm medicine records can be used to total up antibiotic usage by product.

Disease prevention strategies which could help replace prophylactic treatment should also form part of the review. It is also recommended that a member of staff attend a training course in the handling and administration of medicines. This could be delivered by a vet practice.

The use of Highest Priority Critically Important antibiotics must be a last resort and their use must be under the direction of a vet, backed up by sensitivity or diagnostic testing.

### Where to find more information

Red Tractor beef and lamb standards including templates, checklists and documents for vets can be found here: <https://bit.ly/2px7dvg>

### STANDARD: AH.c.1

**A written annual livestock health and performance review must be undertaken by the vet**

#### HOW YOU WILL BE MEASURED:

- The vet attends the farm at least annually and sees livestock
- Annual review to:
  - Identify key issues and make recommendations to improve identified issues
  - Review records and data, including medicine records and prescription data outlining total antibiotic used by product name, making recommendations to responsibly reduce antibiotic usage where appropriate without negatively impacting welfare
  - Review use of Highest Priority Critically Important Antibiotics (HP-CIAs) and make recommendations for responsible reduction
  - Review prophylactic treatment and make recommendations for alternative disease prevention strategies
  - Consider industry initiatives e.g. BVD Free England

**RECORDS: Vet livestock health and performance review**

### STANDARD: AM.a.1

**Highest Priority Critically Important Antibiotics must only be used as a last resort under veterinary direction**

#### HOW YOU WILL BE MEASURED:

- HP-CIAs are defined by the European Medicines Agency (EMA) as 3rd and 4th generation cephalosporins, fluoroquinolones, and colistin
- Use is supported by a vet report outlining one or more of the following:
  - Sensitivity testing
  - Diagnostic testing

**RECORDS: Vet report outlining sensitivity test reports/ diagnostic test reports**

### STANDARD: AM.b.1

**It is recommended that at least one member of staff responsible for administering medicines has undertaken training in the handling and administration of medicines**

#### HOW YOU WILL BE MEASURED:

- Training courses include but are not limited to City & Guilds, Lantra, veterinary-run training courses

**RECORDS: Certificate of Competence / Certificate of Attendance**