

Responsible Use of Antibiotics on Red Tractor Dairy Farms



Red Tractor Assurance

GUIDANCE FOR FARMERS

This document aims to highlight areas of the Red Tractor dairy standards that encourage responsible antibiotic use on farm.



As of the 1st June 2018, Highest Priority Critically Important Antibiotics must only be used as a last resort.

What's happening now?

When Red Tractor Dairy standards were reviewed in 2017, changes were made to reflect the industry's commitment to responsible antibiotic use on farm.

All Red Tractor dairy farms are required to undertake an annual review of antibiotics with their vet.

Medicine records or prescription data outlining total antibiotic usage (by product type) must be used as the basis for advice on how the farm can use antibiotics as responsibly as possible without compromising animal welfare.

As well as making recommendations for responsible use, the vet review must include discussing antibiotic failures and overall use of dry cow therapy.

It is also recommended that a member of staff responsible for handling and administering medicines attends a training course. These are detailed in the table on the right.

What is new?

As of the 1st June 2018 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 dairy standards including templates, checklists and documents for vets can be found here: <https://bit.ly/2px7dvg>



STANDARD: AM.f.1

Medicine records must provide an annual collation of total antibiotic used for the unit

HOW YOU WILL BE MEASURED:

- Antibiotics collated by product name;
- Collation either by vet from prescription data or completed by farmer from medicine records;
- If new legislation requires this total to be presented in a different format this is also acceptable

RECORDS: Collation of antibiotic use

STANDARD: AM.f.2

An annual review of antibiotics used must be undertaken by the vet

HOW YOU WILL BE MEASURED:

- Vet review to include:
 - Include review of medicines and antibiotic purchase and use, including antibiotic collation;
 - Includes discussion on the use of Highest Priority Critically Important Antibiotics (HP-CIAs)
 - Include review of any antibiotic failures;
 - Include recommendation for responsible reduction of antibiotic use where possible, in particular, in relation to HP-CIAs
 - Review overall use of dry cow therapy and protocols and where appropriate make recommendations for selective antibiotic use
- Review can form part of the Vet 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 and holds a certificate of competence.

HOW YOU WILL BE MEASURED:

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

RECORDS: Certificate of Competence / Certificate of Attendance