



Objective 3

Ensure the safe use of veterinary medicines authorised in the UK through surveillance of residues and follow-up action where misuse is detected.

Prepare the statutory residue surveillance programme for 2006 for agreement by the Veterinary Residues Committee to enable the Plan to be submitted to the European Commission in accordance with the time frame laid down in Council Directive 96/23

Expected outcome

The plan for the statutory surveillance programme for 2006 was prepared in consultation with interested parties and approved by the independent VRC. Plan submitted to the European Commission by the deadline of 31 March 2006.

Outcome

The plan was prepared in consultation with interested parties and approved by the independent VRC and submitted to the Commission by 20 March 2006.

Evaluated by

The plan was approved by the VRC and submitted by the Commission deadline.

Obtain agreement by the VRC to the non-statutory residue surveillance plan for 2006 by 31 December 2005

Expected outcome

The approved plan for the non-statutory surveillance plan is communicated to the service providers so that sample collection can begin on time.

Outcome

The plan for the programme has been agreed with the VRC, in principle. This is subject to Defra confirming funding.

Evaluated by

Reports to VMD Directors and the VPC.

Ensure the non-statutory residue surveillance programme operates to budget

Expected outcome

The 2005 non-statutory plan is delivered within the allocated budget.

Outcome

The 2005 non-statutory plan was delivered within the allocated budget.

Evaluated by

Monthly reports to VMD Directors.

Achieve set targets for sampling and analysis under both schemes

Expected outcome

To meet the overall target for collection and analysis of samples.

Outcome

The overall target for the collection and analysis of statutory samples was met. The overall target for the collection and analysis of non-statutory samples was narrowly missed, with 1,382 samples analysed out of a target of 1,400. The shortfall was due to the limited number of raw poultry consignments entering the UK via Border Inspection Posts.

Evaluated by

The sample collection against the plans was monitored monthly. Where there was a possibility of shortfalls, extra samples were requested from the service providers. Regular meetings were held with service providers to anticipate and solve issues that could affect delivery of the plan.

Reports to VMD Directors.

Undertake a brand naming survey as required by the VRC and publish full results

Expected outcome

A brand name survey for unauthorised substances in honey is carried out to an agreed protocol and the full results are published.

Outcome

A planned total of 100 samples of home produced and imported honey were analysed in the survey carried out between July and November 2005. Where positive samples were found, the retailer concerned was informed and given the opportunity to investigate the circumstances and comment.

Evaluated by

The report of the survey was evaluated by the VRC and published on their website. The report contained all of the results of the survey and the responses of those retailers that had sent comments.

Investigate residue violations and apply appropriate sanctions

Expected outcome

Follow-up investigations were carried out on all UK farms of origin of violative samples, except for nicarbazin residues in poultry liver, where an agreed action level of 1,000µg/kg, recommended by the VRC, was used to trigger follow-up investigations. Cases submitted to Defra lawyers to consider if prosecution warranted.

Outcome

Follow-up investigations of violative samples were carried out on all UK farms of origin, except where an action level had been agreed. Cases submitted to Defra lawyers to consider if prosecution warranted.



Evaluated by

Summaries of reports on the outcome of the investigations were considered by the VRC. These summaries were published on their website as papers to the Committee.

Assist the European Commission with the development of new EU residues legislation by participation in Working Groups

Expected outcome

UK is represented on the Commission Working Groups responsible for developing new EU residues legislation.

Outcome

There was UK representation on the Working Groups set up to consider aspects of residues surveillance prior to drafting new EU legislation.

During the UK Presidency, Chair and participate actively in Council Working Groups discussing proposals to amend the residues legislation

Expected outcome

The UK position is fully represented in discussions on new EU residues legislation.

Outcome

Delays within the Commission meant that no discussions were timetabled during the UK Presidency.