



To interested organisations

Direct dial: 01932 338330

E-mail: a.rim@vmd.defra.gsi.gov.uk

Your Ref:

Our Ref: VMD11779

Date: 9 October 2009

Dear Sir/Madam

2010 Non-Statutory Surveillance Plan for Veterinary Residues – Your Chance to Comment

We are writing to seek your views, by **Friday 20 November**, on the foods of animal origin that the Veterinary Residues Committee (VRC) might recommend for inclusion in the Veterinary Medicines Directorate's Non-Statutory Surveillance Scheme. The scheme focuses mainly on imported foods. Further details of the scheme can be found on the VRC website at www.vet-residues-committee.gov.uk.

Following the successful consultations undertaken for the 2008 and 2009 programmes, the Committee has decided to consult on the non-statutory surveillance programme for 2010. A suggested list of foods based on recommendations from Committee members and the Committee's Non-Statutory Planning Subgroup is attached. Other suggestions are welcome, particularly with any background information that may be useful. The Committee will review the list once it has received external comments.

The surveillance scheme has a limited budget, so it is important that our recommendations ensure funds are spent wisely. There may be more foods on this list than it will be possible to include. The VRC has a matrix ranking system to help it select the foods and substances that it believes may pose a potential risk to consumers. The Committee has considered the matrix ranking data and intelligence from a number of sources in drawing up the list of foods. A description of the matrix ranking system is available at pages 37 to 39 in the VRC Annual Report for 2008, a link to which can be found on the VRC website under Current News. The Committee welcomes your views on what you consider should be included in the programme.

The draft plan for 2010 will be considered at the Committee's open meeting on 14 October, which will be held in Cardiff. Further details are available on the VRC's website.

Mrs Dorothy Craig MBE (Chairman)

Veterinary Residues Committee, Woodham Lane, New Haw, Addlestone, Surrey, KT15 3LS Telephone: ++ 44(0) 1932 338322
Fax: 01932 336618

E-mail: vrcsecretariat@vmd.defra.gsi.gov.uk Website: www.vet-residues-committee.gov.uk

If you would like to comment on the foods selected or have any information that you think would help the Committee choose the most appropriate foods and substances please send them to arrive by **Friday 20 November** to:

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Tel: 01932 338330

Alternatively, you can submit the information by clicking on the Contact Us button on our website: www.vet-residues-committee.gov.uk.

A list of organisations receiving this letter is attached and I should be grateful if you could cascade it to any others you feel may wish to contribute.

Yours faithfully

Dorothy Craig MBE
Chairman

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FOODS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THE 2010 NON-STATUTORY SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMME

Imported raw poultry

Included in the programme for a number of years, this includes chicken, turkey, duck, goose and guinea fowl. Residues of coccidiostats and antibiotics not permitted for use in food producing species in the EU¹ have previously been detected.

Imported raw beef including veal

Beef was included in the 2007 and 2008 programmes owing to concerns expressed about the use of growth promoters in third countries and whether residues of these substances could be present in meat being imported in to the UK. Also included in the 2009 programme under raw red meat. Residues of an antibiotic not permitted for use in food producing species in the EU¹ has recently been reported by another Member State.

Imported farmed fish

Included in the programme for several years. Covers all types of farmed fish. Residues of antibiotics, dyes and residues of antibiotics not permitted for use in food producing species in the EU¹ have previously been detected. Residues of an herbicide have recently been reported by another Member State.

Imported warm water crustaceans

Included in the programme for a number of years. Residues of antibiotics not permitted for use in food producing species in the EU¹ have previously been detected.

Imported honey

Included in the programme over a number of years and in the 2009 programme as a survey. Residues detected in previous years include antibiotics and agents used to prevent wax moth in bee keeping equipment. Residues of antibiotics have recently been reported by other Member States.

Imported raw pork

Included in the 2009 programme under raw red meat. Volumes of imports from third countries are low. However some third countries use substances not permitted in the EU in their pig production. Residues of antibiotics not permitted for use in food producing species in the EU¹ have been detected by other Member States.

Milk powder and ready to use baby milk

Dried baby milk and milk powder were previously surveyed in 2003 and are being surveyed in the 2009 programme. Residues of antibiotics not permitted for use in food producing species in the EU¹ have previously been reported by other Member States in milk powder.

¹ Third countries that are approved to export food of animal origin to the EU must abide by the EU legislation on the use of veterinary medicines when producing such food for export to EU countries.

Casings (used in the production of sausages)

Not included in the programme before. Residues of antibiotics not permitted for use in food producing species in the EU¹ have been detected by other Member States.

¹ Third countries that are approved to export food of animal origin to the EU must abide by the EU legislation on the use of veterinary medicines when producing such food for export to EU countries.

Consultation list

Agriculture Industries Confederation
Animal Pharm
Association of British Abattoir Owners
Association of British Pharmaceutical Industry
Association of Port Health Authorities
Association of Scottish Shellfish Growers
Assured Produce Company Ltd
BHM Health Group Ltd
Booker
British Beekeepers' Association
British Pig Association
British Poultry Council
British Retail Consortium
British Trout Association
British Veterinary Association
British Veterinary Poultry Association
CAI Ltd
Campden & Chorleywood Food Research
Association
Cargill Integra
Chilled Food Association
Christian Salvesen
COC
Cold Storage and Distribution Federation
Compassion In World Farming
Consumer Panel Secretariat
Convention of Scottish Local Authorities
Costco Wholesale UK Ltd
County Landowners Association
Dairy Industry Federation
Dairy UK
De Sangosse Ltd
Deans Foods Ltd (now Noble Foods)
EcoS Consultancy
ERICA (European Research into Consumer
Affairs)
Farmer's Union of Wales
FAST Co. Uk. (Farm Advisory Services Team Ltd)
Federation of Fresh Meat Wholesalers
Federation of Small Businesses
Federation of Wholesale Distributors
Findus UK
Food and Drink Federation
Food Ethics Council
Fresh Produce Consortium
Friends of the Earth

Gee Lawson Ltd
General Consumer Council for Northern Ireland
Greenpeace
Greenvale AP Ltd
Grimsby Fish Merchants Association Ltd
Healthspan Ltd
Higgins Agriculture Ltd
Honey International Packers Association
Humber VB
Institute of Grocery Distribution
International Meat Trade Association
Intershell Ltd
L&M Food Group Ltd
LACORS
Landauer Limited Seafoods Division
LEAF
LiDL
Marks & Spencer
MBM Produce Ltd
Meat and Livestock Commission
Monsanto UK Ltd
Morrisons (Wm. Morrison Supermarket PLC)
Musgrave, Budgens Londis
National Association of Catering Butchers
National Beef Association
National Consumer Council
National Consumer Federation
National Council of Women of Great Britain
National Dairy Council
National Farmers Union
National Farmers' Union of Scotland
National Federation of Meat Traders
National Federation of Wholesale Poultry
Merchants
National Federation of Young Farmer's Clubs
National Pig Association
National Sheep Association
Natural Resources International Ltd
NFU/VRC
Nisa-Today's (Holding) Ltd
NOAH
Occupational & Environmental Health Group
Pan UK (Pesticide Action Network UK)
Park Tonks Ltd
Pig Veterinary Society
Poultry World
PSI (Practical Solutions International Ltd)

Ross Biosciences Ltd
Rothamsted Research
Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain
Sainsbury's Supermarket Ltd
Scottish Association of Meat Wholesalers
Scottish Beekeepers' Association
Scottish Consumer Council
Scottish Federation of Meat Trader's Association
Scottish Food Quality Certification Ltd
Scottish Quality Salmon
Shellfish Association of Great Britain
Soil Association
Somerfield Stores Ltd
Southampton University Hospital NHS Trust
Stockbridge Technology Centre Ltd (Cawood)
Sustain
TESCO
Trading Standards Institute
UK Provision Trade Federation
Ulster Farmers Union
Waitrose
Welsh Beekeepers' Association
Welsh Consumer Council
WEN (Womens Environmental Network)
Which?
Wing Yip Plc
Women's Farming Union
Worshipful Company of Butchers
Worshipful Company of Fishmongers