

BE ALERT!

Activity from animal rights groups has intensified recently with visits to multiple farms and abattoirs. Some of you may have heard discussion on this at recent NPA meetings.

Farm incursions have taken place in the middle of the night and through images captured on CCTV activists can be seen moving between pens taking photographs and potentially video recordings. Some units have been alerted to this by their security systems where as others have found out subsequently when photographs of their units have been released by these organisations.

Arising from the images released and follow up visits from assurance bodies are some repeatable themes:

- Deadstock management
- Medicines recording
- Casualty pig management

Please remember to:

- Check that all carcasses are put into the deadstock bin or have been incinerated in a timely fashion. **CARCASSES SHOULD NOT BE LEFT OUT OVERNIGHT.** This includes material from farrowing houses e.g. afterbirth and mummified or stillborn piglets.
- **Deadstock bins should be locked at all times between uses**
- All medicines administered should be recorded accurately in the unit medicines book and treated pigs must be marked to identify them.
 - This includes medication used in water, in feed and vaccinations.
- Pigs under treatment should be clearly marked, regularly assessed and if treatment is unsuccessful euthanasia should be prompt

Please seriously consider the value of installing CCTV +/- infrared beams and locking all buildings. For those with existing CCTV systems please ensure that signage is clearly displayed indicating that CCTV is installed and in use. Signage is a legal requirement and prosecution for trespassing is easier to achieve when signage is visibly displayed.

The National Pig Association has resources for members on best practice for pig keepers:

6 point plan: <https://www.npa-uk.org.uk/hres/NPA%206%20point%20plan>

End of day routine: <https://www.npa-uk.org.uk/hres/Tidy%20Units%20poster%20Mar%2020>

Unit security pack: <https://www.npa-uk.org.uk/hres/NPA%20Security%20Pack%20Mar%202023>

By making sure everything is as it should be on your farm, considerable worry and sleepless nights can be avoided. If you would like further help or advice specific to your unit, please get in touch.

eMB reminder

Quarter 1 2024 eMB returns need to be submitted by 12th May. It is a Red Tractor requirement that eMB is up to date.

Water systems and medicines administration

As pressure continues to build on antimicrobial usage and, in particular, in-feed medication, now is a good time to review the capability of your farm's water system and how effectively it could deliver medication if needed.

Important points to consider:

- Water source and quality
- Pressure and flow rates
- Water proportioner/medicator
- Ability to medicate small groups/specific age groups
- Compliance with water regulations
- Water system hygiene and ability to clean and disinfect system

Please speak to your vet for further advice about the water system on your unit and how to make it future proof.

After a seemingly endless wet winter the return of some sunshine has been welcome. Don't forget to check your sunshades, wallows, white-washed arcs and ventilation systems to avoid heat stress issues.

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